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OPINION METER

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Where should the
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State of the
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INSIDE



Sex Abuse

A polygamist compound with hundreds of children was rife with sex abuse, with girls spiritually married to older men as soon as they reached puberty.

NATION...Page 16

Hostaged

Six Filipino crewmen were among 30 people taken hostage by pirates who seized a luxury French yacht off Somalia last week.

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Clooney Appeal

George Clooney took a break from promoting his latest film Tuesday to meet with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

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Judge orders distribution of \$290K Malite funds. PAGE 2
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DPS to lose 32 personnel

Reservists face possible deployment to Kuwait

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will lose at least 32 of its police and fire personnel to a possible deployment in Kuwait.

See DPS on Page 4

Bus stop vandalism a perennial scourge

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Public School System bus stops—concrete tin-roofed sheds that are usually painted a bright yellow—have become perennial targets of hooligans, who not only festoon the structure with graffiti but also subject them to various acts of vandalism.

The issue has prompted the Public School System pupil transportation division to air its concerns, particularly since it believes that the vandalism is being done by students themselves, who often linger at the bus stops before and after school.

PSS bus team leader Steven M. Pangelinan said that one of the biggest problem the pupil transportation division is facing is the vandal-

ism and graffiti at bus stops that never cease.

See BUS on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hopwood Jr. High School student Florina Palacios has gotten used to the graffiti, trash, damaged benches and the corroded rooftop as she waits yesterday for her school bus to arrive at the bus stop near 99 Cents along the corner of Cpl Derence Jack Rd. and Chalan Pale Arnold.



SCIENCE AND HEALTH FAIR

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

San Antonio Elementary School's 6th graders Danah Apelo, Kiana Sablan and Dhale Posadas tap the bottles to create different sounds during the school's Science Fair Week and Health day celebration yesterday morning.

Villagomez vetoes austerity bill

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has vetoed an austerity bill originally backed by the administration, saying that Legislature-added provisions



Villagomez

set the bill off course from the main intent.

"The primary focus of the administration with respect to this legislation would have been to save

a few hundred employees who are facing loss of jobs, while continuing to provide essential services to the community and assisting the government from any further financial burden. However, the focus has been frustrated by certain provisions

See VILLAGOMEZ on Page 4

GAO: Millions wasted on govt cards

By HOPE YEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal employees charged millions of dollars for Internet dating, tailor-made suits, lingerie, lavish dinners and other questionable expenses to their government

credit cards over a 15-month period, congressional auditors say.

A report by the Government Accountability Office, obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, examined spending controls across the federal government following reports of credit-card abuse at departments

See GAO on Page 4

ON THE NET

Government Accountability Office: <http://www.gao.gov>

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Local

Judge orders distribution of \$290K Malite funds

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has ordered a partial distribution of the Angel Malite estate in the amount of \$290,000 that is presently held in trust.

In his written order issued Tuesday, Govendo directed the Superior Court's clerk, the administrative services, and accounting unit to make the partial distribution.

The judge approved the release of funds following the re-

quest by the Malite estate's co-administrators Jimmy Sablan and Esther Sound.

The co-administrators requested for partial distribution of the estate's funds held in trust by the Superior Court in the amount of \$100,000 to each of the four branches of the Malite family—Joaquina Malite, Elias Malite, Jacoba Malite, and Remedio Malite—with offsets for prior advances made.

Govendo said \$165,000 should be made payable to the law offices of Stephen J. Nutting to be held in trust of behalf

of the heirs of Elias Malite and Jacoba Malite, and the estates of Jesus Sinounou and Gregorio Sablan, pending further court orders in those proceedings and or in the estates of their deceased children.

Jesus Sinounou and Gregorio Sablan are heirs of Jacoba Malite.

The judge said the other \$100,000 should be made payable to the law offices of F. Matthew Smith to be held in trust on behalf of the heirs of Joaquina Malite, pending further court orders in the probate of Joaquina's

estate and in the probate of her daughter Marcela.

The remaining \$25,000, Govendo said, should be made payable to the Torres Brothers Law Offices to be held in the attorneys' trust account pending a final decision on the merits of the Juan Somol heirship claim.

Despite the restrictions placed in the distribution to the individual heirs, Govendo said that Nutting may distribute \$33,333.34 of the funds to be held in reserve for the estate of Jacoba Malite to Rombert

Sinounou, to allow him to use such funds as necessary for his support, care and medical treatment.

The hearing for the partial distribution was held Friday. At the proceeding, co-administrators Jimmy Sablan and Sound, through counsel Nutting, informed the court that Rosa Malite Fejeran, the daughter of Elias Malite, was advanced \$35,000 for medical and funeral expenses.

In addition, Innocencia Tudela, the granddaughter of Joaquina Malite, has received distributions that exceed the amount due the other heir to the estate of Joaquina.

The co-administrators also requested that the \$100,000 being proposed for the heir claimants of Remedio Malite should be held in trust, contingent upon the outcome of the appeal filed in the CNMI Supreme Court.

Attorney Victorino Torres of the Torres Brothers Law Offices, counsel for the Somol heir claimants, objected to the distribution.

Torres maintained that any distribution would have to be channeled through the estates of Angel Malite's deceased children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Nutting objected to this as being unnecessary since the heirs in those estates have been well established and have already received distributions.

Torres further requested that if a distribution was to be made, that they receive \$25,000 as partial distribution.

Nutting objected, citing that a stay was in place, and if it was determined that the Somols were not heirs, the Malite estate

would not likely be able to recover the funds.

Govendo, however, found the Somols' argument persuasive.

In his written order, Govendo expressed concern that given the multiple levels of probate among and between the heirs, seeking individual orders in each probate in order to make distributions to the rightful heirs will be burdensome and costly to the estate.

"The court will, therefore, entertain a motion to consolidate the probates of the estates filed on behalf of all of the deceased heirs of Angel Malite, in order to allow future distributions and proceedings to take place within a single forum and hearing when possible," he said.

Govendo granted the Somols' request for a \$25,000 distribution. But such distribution, he pointed out, shall remain in trust pending a final decision on the validity of the Somols' heirship claim.

Last March 25, Govendo threw attorneys Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig in jail for not complying with his order to return the \$1.3 million in attorney's fees that the two lawyers received in the controversial Malite estate probate.

Govendo ordered Yana and Atalig to report to the Department of Corrections to serve their 30-day sentence for civil contempt.

Govendo said the two lawyers may purge the contempt by posting \$1,285,500.

Yana and Atalig served as counsels for then Malite estate administrator Jesus C. Tudela, whom Govendo kicked out due to mismanagement.

Large percentage of motorists on Saipan seen using seatbelts

A significant number of motorists on Saipan are using seatbelts, according to a survey conducted by the Department of Public Safety.

Two surveys conducted by DPS Traffic and Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program on April 1 showed that of the 1,542 vehicles they inspected, 1,327 drivers were found using seatbelts while only 215 were not.

This means that 86 percent of those inspected were using seatbelts, while 14 percent were not.

In his report, police officer Glenn S. Rabago said the first survey was conducted between 9am to 10am, while the second was between 2pm to 3pm.

In the first survey, Rabago said that, of 680 vehicles, 581 or 85 percent were using restraints, while 99 or 15 percent were not.

In the second survey, the

officer said, of the 862 vehicles, 746 or 87 percent wore restraints, while 116 or 13 percent had none.

On the other hand, DPS Traffic Section's two checkpoints last Friday found no one driving under the influence of alcohol.

In his report, police officer 2 Daniel L. Smith said the first checkpoint was held from 10am to 11:15am along Beach Road near Minachom Atdao in Susupe.

Smith said the second checkpoint was between 3pm to 4:15pm along Middle Road near the Army Reserve Center.

Smith said that 160 vehicles were stopped and screened, a total of 23 were given regular citations, while 12 were issued insurance citations.

Smith said 19 failed to display front license plates. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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'CUC shortfall may soon affect fuel for Rota, Tinian'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s collections shortfall may soon affect CUC's fuel supply to Rota and Tinian, according to CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero.

"It may be very well come to a point that we're going to basi-

cally have to spread the burden to all three islands," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Guerrero said that, in addition to CUC's monthly need for 25,000 barrels of fuel to Power Plant 1 in Lower Base, they also buy regular truck shipment for Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, both located on Saipan, and weekly deliveries to Tinian and

Rota on a separate ship.

"What's going to begin to happen now is that because of our cash situation we need to spread out this [shortfall problem] to all three islands," he said.

That means, the executive director said, that CUC may reach a point where it could only afford to purchase a portion of the fuel for Rota and a portion for Tinian in order to try and manage the situation.

"Rota and Tinian are treated separately. We usually handle that through our weekly payments to them. As of right now both islands are okay," he said.

However, Guerrero stressed, as CUC gets more pressure from its fuel supplier, Mobil, to make the payment on the remaining

fuel supply and the maintenance requirements of Power Plant 1, it's going to reach a point where CUC will have to make a decision whether to buy less fuel for Tinian and Rota.

"It's very difficult," the CUC official added.

CUC's fuel supply for Power Plant 1 will reportedly last until the end of next week as CUC was short of \$2 million to pay Mobil.

CUC is continuously talking with the Filial administration regarding assistance as it managed to pay only \$1.5 million

out of the needed \$3.5 million worth of 25,000 barrels of fuel.

Guerrero said CUC has been facing a shortfall in collections since March 3 when the power rate reverted back to 17.6 cents per kilowatt hour for residential customers.

186 cadets participate in 5-day encampment

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

A total of 186 CNMI Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets participated in a five-day JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge Encampment in March.

According to Army instruction director and CNMI Cadet LTC Robert Gay, this is the largest encampment in the CNMI dating back 18 years.

The cadets camped at the vicinity of the Obyan Beach, where they had the opportunity to practice leadership skills in an unfamiliar environment and an opportunity to conduct adventure-training activities not normally available at the home station.

Cadets were randomly assigned to units that included students from all the schools in the CNMI, including JROTC cadets from Guam.

Cadets participated in a daily regimen that included roll call at "Zero Dark Thirty", morning physical training, a full day of events and nightly activities.

The daily activities included rappelling, leadership reaction course, obstacle course, platoon drill, first aid and academic

challenge, to name a few.

Select cadets from the Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High Schools conducted research for the project and briefed the cadets on the historical significance of each site.

Nightly activities included the CNMI Idol Song Competition, preparation of leaders for the next day's activities and school skits and performances.

Gay provided the cadets authentic learning activities and promoted leadership skills, teamwork, problem solving, discipline, self-esteem, personal responsibility, making decisions and sociability.

"The cadets gained invaluable team building skills, leadership training and made some lifelong friends," Gay said.

"The Cadets from Guam really appreciated the opportunity to work with their counterparts from CNMI and said they wanted to do it again next year," he added.

The federal government provided the CNMI JROTC \$14,000 to underwrite the cost of transportation and meals for the cadets, chaperones, and instructors from Tinian and Rota.

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality will receive

\$200,000 to continue assessment of hazardous substance sites and support community outreach activities. Another \$200,000 will be provided to the CNMI Dept. of Public Lands for the cleanup of WWII unexploded ordnance on the northern end of Saipan.

Eventually, this cleanup will allow for the development of approximately 500 new homes for local residents.

"The EPA is very pleased to provide this funding for work in the CNMI," said Debbie

See EPA on Next Page

EPA awards CNMI \$400K to assess, clean up Brownfields

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'2008 aviation workshop a huge success'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

No less than the regional head of the Federal Aviation Administration said that the recently concluded 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop held on Saipan last week was a great success.

GAO

From Page 1

including Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

The review of card spending at more than a dozen departments from 2005 to 2006 found that nearly 41 percent of roughly \$14 billion in credit-card purchases, whether legitimate or questionable, did not follow procedure—either because they were not properly authorized or they had not been signed for by an independent third party as called for in federal rules to deter fraud.

For purchases over \$2,500, nearly half—or 48 percent—were unauthorized or improperly received.

Out of a sample of purchases totaling \$2.7 million, the government could not account for hundreds of laptop computers, iPods and digital cameras worth more than \$1.8 million. In one case, the U.S. Army could not say what happened to computer items making up 16 server configurations, each of which

"I received a significant amount of very positive feedback from many of the participants, and I'm very pleased to be able to state that it was a huge success," said FAA program manager for the Micronesia Barry Brayer in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The FAA official also said that he

cost nearly \$100,000.

Agencies often could not provide the required paperwork to justify questionable purchases. Investigators also found that federal employees sometimes double-billed or improperly expensed lavish meals and Internet dating for many months without question from supervisors; the charges were often noticed only after auditors or whistle-blowers raised questions.

"Breakdowns in internal controls over the use of purchase cards leave the government highly vulnerable to fraud, waste and abuse," investigators wrote, calling the governmentwide failure rate in enforcing controls "unacceptably high."

"This audit demonstrates that continued vigilance over purchase card use is necessary," the 57-page report stated.

The report calls for the General Services Administration and Office of Management and Budget, both of which help administer the government's credit-card program, to set guidance to improve accounting for purchased items, particularly Palm Pilots,

was happy that the event was able to cover a lot of topics and achieved a lot in terms of networking during the three-day event.

"The workshop achieved our goal of fostering cooperation between aviation stakeholders to work together to resolve issues of mutual concern regard-

iPods and other electronic equipment that could be easily stolen.

OMB and GSA were also urged to tighten controls over convenience checks, which are a part of the credit-card program, and to remind federal employees that they will be held responsible for any items if the purchases are later deemed improper.

In response, both OMB and GSA agreed with portions of the report. But GSA administrator Lurita Doan noted the vast majority of federal employees use their cards properly and that many oversight measures already are in place. She acknowledged there is room for improvement but added that by using purchase cards the federal government saves about \$1.8 billion in administrative costs each year.

"We agree that no level of abuse or misuse is acceptable," Doan wrote.

The GAO study comes amid increasing scrutiny of purchase cards, which are used by 300,000 federal employees and are directly payable by the U.S. government.

ing aviation safety," he said.

Continental Airlines director of flight operations Capt. Ralph A. Freeman, meanwhile, complimented the Commonwealth Ports Authority for organizing the event.

"CPA did a terrific job in hosting the workshop. It was a pleasure to be part of the annual event once again," he said.

The 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop was held from April 1 to 3 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

In an earlier interview, CPA acting executive director Lee Cabrera noted that the workshop saw a record number of 176 participants register.

"We understand from Barry Brayer

[Federal Aviation Administration Micronesia Program manager] that it was more or less a record as far as the turnout was concerned," he said.

Topics that were discussed during the workshop included air traffic, risk management systems, flight procedures and standards, as well as other airport related topics involving weather service, funding opportunities and airport emergency procedures.

Invited speakers also provided reports on the much anticipated military buildup in Guam.

The theme for the workshop was "Planning for Aviation Growth and Infrastructure Development in Partnership with Government and Industry."

community use.

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The EPA's Brownfields program authorizes up to \$250 million in grant funds annually and encourages redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites.

Since the beginning of the Brownfields program, EPA awarded 1255 assessment grants totaling over \$298.6 million, 230 revolving loan fund grants totaling over \$217.7 million, and 426 cleanup grants totaling \$78.7 million. (EPA)

BUS

From Page 1

"All summer last year, we went from bus stop to bus stop just trying to clean and paint them before the school year begins. But just halfway through the school year, most of them are already vandalized with all sorts of graffiti," Pangelinan said.

He said that bus drivers "do the best they can" to clean and paint the island's bus stops, which they do during their breaks.

"Students need to know that these bus stops are not for anybody else; the bus stops are there for them," Pangelinan said.

Beautify CNMI volunteer Angelo Villagomez agrees.

"If we don't have enough respect for these kids to even provide them with toilet paper, never mind the proper materials and tools for learning, how can we expect them to respect the rest of society? The kids wouldn't vandalize something they respected, so the trick is to get them to respect what is ultimately

theirs," he said.

Villagomez said the trick to it is to be diligent. "You have to just keep painting over the vandalism."

"There is a bigger problem at work, though. Graffiti in itself is just a symptom of a much larger problem," said Villagomez.

He said the lack of after-school activities may be one of the causes why students vandalize.

"If you think things are bad, just wait until school is canceled for two months. It's not just the schools, either. A lot of the vandalism occurs

at night. Where are the parents?" Villagomez asked.

Pangelinan said some of the most vandalized bus stops are from 99 Cents Mart to Tanapag.

He said that, although a number of beautification groups, lawmakers, and the Department of Public Safety have all chipped in, "they [vandalized bus stops] still need a lot of work. They always need a lot of work."

Pangelinan said the cash-strapped PSS depends on donations of paint and materials from the Federal Emergency

Management Agency as well as donations from community officials and beautification groups to maintain the bus stops.

Last year, the Marianas Visitors Authority donated \$2,000 for paint that was used to paint over the graffiti.

Villagomez said, "The best way to make sure that a bus stop is never vandalized again is to have the kids that use the bus stop paint it. Let them paint it however they want."

"Then they'll take ownership over the bus stop and they'll be the ones doing the policing," he added.

VILLAGOMEZ

From Page 1

of the measure," Villagomez said.

The disapproved bill, which the Legislature rushed to passage last week, would have given the governor reprogramming power over some \$5.7 million from sources outside the General Fund. It also would have restored the austerity Fridays and suspended holiday pay through the end of the fiscal year.

Further, the bill would have allowed the government to pay only 11 percent of the total payroll to the NMI Retirement Funds, instead of the 36-percent recommended by the pension pro-

gram's actuary.

One of the specific provisions opposed by Villagomez relates to the restriction on the governor's reprogramming power. Under the bill, the governor may only reprogram funding lapses realized once the bill has become law. This means there are funds that can be reprogrammed immediately. Villagomez complained that the provision "does not grant the governor the flexibility needed to keep the government functioning."

He also disagreed with the provision that exempts from the austerity Fridays federally paid employees who can show that a work-hour reduction will "substantially likely to result in the

loss of federal funds." He said the provision is vague, and assumes that funds saved from personnel costs cannot be diverted for use in the operation of the federal program.

Villagomez said the holiday pay suspension cannot be implemented without also suspending "double pay" for those who are required to work, instead of granting them regular pay.

The hiring freeze provision is too restrictive, he said, as it does not allow the hiring of critical employees such as law enforcement officers, doctors, or workers for revenue generating departments.

The proposal to eliminate all existing job vacancies in government may prove impractical, Villagomez said.

For example, he cited a situation where there are three positions, of which one is filled at a high salary and two vacant. The bill will prevent the administration from finishing out the term of the higher paid employee, then hiring two persons at lower salaries.

"It is the intent that when the salaries of the two new employees are combined, they will not exceed the salary of the formerly higher paid employee, while providing jobs to two individuals," he said.

But the most alarming hiring-related provision, Villagomez said, is that which would require joint legislative approval of all hiring. "[This] is not just restrictive, but intrusive of other branches of the government," he said.

"Overall, this bill poses various impediments which would clearly prevent the continued delivery of essential public services. Had this bill focused primarily on providing the government with reprogramming authority, reinstating austerity holidays, providing for non-paid holidays, and setting the government retirement contribution rate at 11 percent, I would have approved the bill as it would have allowed for the continued delivery of essential public services, while preserving the jobs of about 350 government employees."

However, as written, with the various additional sections, it would be difficult to approve this bill," Villagomez said.

DPS

From Page 1

The initial count of DPS personnel who have received the Army Reserve's call to active duty represents nearly 20 percent of the police and fire workforce on Saipan.

The Army reservists are expecting to ship out in August 2008.

"This deployment call will put a

manpower drain in our police and fire workforce," acting Commissioner Clyde K. Norita told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in a letter.

DPS must begin hiring and training new officers as soon as possible. The recruitment of cadets is seen to take about a month. The regular academy time is set at six months. However, Norita said, the academy can be run in half the time.

"There is nothing we can do about

the alert notice. Those reservists will have to go, and they have got a job when they come back. Meantime, we need to maintain peace and safety here," said Norita.

Another problem facing DPS is the lack of money to recruit and train new personnel. A cadet's training, including equipment, books and instructor fees, costs about \$13,000 to \$15,000. In addition, salary costs about \$15,000 per cadet.

DPS is looking at hiring 20 police officers and 20 fire personnel to replace the Army reservists who will be gone for a still undisclosed length of time.

Yesterday, Norita met with acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos to discuss the department's recruitment needs. DPS also plans to ask the Legislature to sanction the hiring.

Norita was appointed commissioner of the Department of Public Safety last

month, replacing former commissioner Rebecca Warfield.

Upon taking over, Norita said, he found a department facing serious funding and morale issues. "I find that I can restore morale within a reasonable time given the latitude to work and lead these personnel. Funding, on the other hand, is a critical concern, but I assure you that DPS stands ready to work within the CNMI's projected revenue collection," he told the governor.

'Low morale' prompts CPA lawyer to quit

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The staff attorney of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has quit because of an apparent

clash with the CPA board of directors.

Jose A. Bermudes filed his

resignation on Monday, April 7, 2008, after just a little over a year of working at the ports au-

thority.

His resignation will turn into effect on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

"I leave CPA with a heavy heart because I know the managers and all the employees are trying their best to cope and adapt to whatever comes their way. However, it is quite clear to me that the morale has spiraled to its lowest and employees are really unhappy," Bermudes said in his resignation letter addressed to all of the board members.

He also offered this advice to the CPA board: "For whatever it is worth, the Board must assess the morale problem and return the once cooperative team spirit at CPA. The finger pointing and the blame game advance nothing in the work place. And though

every employee is not always perfect, no one deserves to be humiliated in public or among colleagues."

Bermudes is not the first key official to leave CPA this year.

Stanley C. Torres Jr., the former acting executive director and fire chief at CPA, stepped down in January following public disagreements with the CPA board, in particular chairman Rex Palacios.

Torres served CPA for 15 years, including 10 months as acting executive director. As chief of CPA's aircraft rescue and firefighting division, Torres was instrumental in the establishment of the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center. The facility has trained and certified numerous fire personnel from all over Micronesia.



Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela poses for a group photo with Saipan Southern High School librarian Sudi Napalan, Joeten Kiyu Public Library's Erlinda Naputi, Jenni Rospel and Jean Cruz, Kagman High School principal Alfred B. Ada with KHS librarian Gina Lynn Camacho Sambilay, Kagman Elementary School's Janina Mika Muna, Hopwood Jr. High School's Elizabeth Lizama, Marianas High School's Patty Aguon-Cruz, and Tinian Elementary School's Marciana Cruz.

Tudela declares National Library Week

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela has proclaimed April 25 to 19 as National Library Week during a proclamation signing yesterday.

Saipan Southern High School librarian Sudi Napalan said this is the CNMI's first proclamation of National Library Week and that it is a "monumental event for our local libraries throughout the CNMI."

National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country.

For the first time ever, libraries throughout the CNMI would be working with one objective: "To promote reading and literacy to all people in different race and varying ages here in the CNMI," said Napalan.

There are 33 CNMI school libraries, in addition to the CNMI Archives, Curriculum Resource

Center and Olympia T. Borja Library of the Northern Marianas College, and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Tudela said that without a school library or any other library, "our children's education would not be complete for they will not have much accessibility to research, obtain information from their collection of books, and more importantly, improve their reading skills."

During this week and throughout the month of April, the library media center will offer activities to highlight the various services it offers students and staff, ranging from storytelling and information dissemination to helping improve reading skills and using the Internet.

This year's National Library Week theme is "Join the circle of knowledge at your library." (Rianne Pangalinan-Brown)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

April 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to a court ordered Writ, issued by the Superior Court in Civil Action No. 05-0257, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA") together with assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety, shall auction off to the highest bidder Two (2) Boats: (1) a 1977 15.35M, Cabin, Fiberglass Boat; M.V. Hope-Cert. No. CM-953-CF; and (2) M.V. Four Winds-Cert. No. CM-951-CF, as well as an additional boat engine, which is not currently on site. A list, with detailed description of the properties listed may be obtained at CDA's Office in Gualo Rai.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold on the premises of the Commonwealth Ports Authority "AS IS" and "WHERE IS", with the exception of the boat engine, which will be available for inspection the morning of the auction;
2. The items are being sold WITHOUT WARRANTY of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the Port on April 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., the address being: Commonwealth Ports Authority, Captain George F. Fleming Memorial Building, Conference Room, Port of Saipan, Industrial Drive, Saipan, MP 96950;
4. The Boats are currently dry-docked at the Port, and may be inspected at any time during business hours which are convenient to CPA, by prior arrangement with CPA;
5. The Buyer at auction will be responsible for removing boats and complying with any US Coast Guard requirements for their removal within thirty (30) days;
6. The Buyer at auction agrees that if he or she fails to remove a purchased boat within the prescribed time limit of thirty (30) days, that he or she agrees to be responsible to CPA for any boat storage fees which have accrued from the date of the auction;
7. Terms of the sale are cash or certified check; and
8. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Ms. Rowena T. Ford, Loan Officer, CDA at 234-7145 for further information or to inspect the items. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2008

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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Man who burglarized MCV gets 14 months

The Superior Court has imposed a 14-month prison term on a man who burglarized the Marianas Cable Vision two years ago.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced William Jerome Deleon Guerrero to five years in prison, all suspended except for 14 months. Deleon Guerrero was given credit for six days he has already served in jail.

Govendo ordered Deleon Guerrero to start serving the prison term on May 15, 2008.

The defendant is expected to complete his sentence on July 19, 2009. After serving the sentence, he will be placed on five years' probation.

The judge required the defendant to pay a \$500 fine, a probation fee, and restitution.

Deleon Guerrero was also ordered to write a letter of apology to MCV and perform 100 hours of community work service.

The defendant was charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and theft, burglary, and theft.

He signed a plea agreement with the government and plead-

ed guilty to burglary. According to court docu-

ments, Deleon Guerrero and two other men burglarized

MCV between Sept. 10 or 11, 2006. A safe deposit box con-

taining over \$34,000 in cash and checks were stolen.

Community invited to NMC's Charter Day party tomorrow

Celebrating its 27th year of enriching and enhancing people's professional and personal lives

in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas College is inviting the community to its Charter Day

festivities which will be held at the NMC Field on April 11 from 3pm to 10pm.

The Charter Day festivities will be showcasing the talent and performances of several well-known groups on the island, including Saipan Grand Hotel's Zynergy Band, local entertainer Maggie Naputi, and reggae band Burning Bush. The event will also feature performances from Penina Ole Vasa, Da Metgot, Southern High Manta Ray, Final Extreme, Inatus, the English Department Dance Club, and more.

Headlining the event will be the highly-anticipated Marianas Idol Competition, which will feature some of the CNMI's most talented singers competing for the title of 2008 Marianas Idol as well as prizes donated by the event's sponsors. Those who wish to participate in the com-

petition must take part in the audition scheduled for Thursday, April 10, at 6pm at the NMC Student Center. Five finalists will be selected from the audition to perform at the Charter Day Festivities on Friday.

In addition to the exciting entertainment, there will also be several vendors featuring island delicacies and specialty drinks for sale. Other booths will have games for kids.

Rota student invited to attend 2009 presidential inauguration

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Anne R. Atalig of Sinapalo, Rota, has been invited to attend the 56th Inauguration of the President of United States of America in Washington D.C. on



NMC student Juanet Villagomez poses with the trophy she earned during the Marianas Idol Competition held in 2006. The next Marianas Idol competition, in addition to other featured entertainers, will be held this Friday at NMC's Charter Day festivities from 3pm to 10pm at the NMC Field. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



Atalig

Jan. 17 to 21, 2009, as an Inaugural Scholar.

Atalig's invitation, issued by the University Presidential Inaugural Conference, was due in part to her participation in the National Young Leaders Conference.

Upon her arrival at the state capital, Atalig will join the nation's most acclaimed students in marking the 56th presidential inauguration.

Atalig, who is a presidential scholar as well as a Bill Gates Millennium scholar recipient, will participate in five days of special events and activities commemorating the Inauguration of the President and Vice President.

At the conference, Atalig will also have the opportunity to meet with White House officials, congressional staff, presidential historians, political experts and commentators—leading decision makers who will actively shape and implement the policies that will guide the nation in the years to come.

The University Presidential Inaugural Conference is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that an individual will never again have as a student.

Atalig is presently in France as part of a study abroad program. She is a sophomore at Dartmouth College, which ranks fifth among the nation's Ivy League colleges.

Atalig is the daughter of Francisco Atalig and Ofelia R. Atalig of Sinapalo, Rota.



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\$22.31

Alien worker's transfer request denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An alien worker who has been working in the CNMI for 10 years now and had filed a wrongful termination complaint against her employer has been denied transfer relief.

Labor Hearing Officer Deanne Siemer determined that Qiao Li Yan was absent from work, refused Marianas Garment Manufacturing Inc.'s request to return to work, and since that time has not worked for any employer appearing on Labor's records.

"Persons who are able to work but do not do so are not entitled to transfer," said the hearing officer in her administrative order that denied Yan's request to transfer to a new employer.

Siemer awarded no damages to Yan.

She said Yan's testimony about the alleged requests for

payments from an employee of MGM lacked detail that normally would have been available with respect to such an occurrence "and were for this and other reasons, including demeanor, not credible."

Yan had alleged that she was wrongfully terminated. She sought prospective contract damages for the remainder of her contract after the termination date.

She alleged that she became ill, requested medical treatment that was not forthcoming, and finally went to China for treatment.

Yan claimed that she paid for the airfare to and from China and also paid for medicine while in China.

She produced airline ticket receipts and testified to the amount of \$750 for the round-trip ticket. She also produced receipts for medication and testified to the amount of \$860.

Yan alleged that retaliation occurred in her case. She claimed that an MGM supervisor sought payments of \$500 and \$1,000 one day before the Chinese New Year in 2005, which she refused to pay.

Thereafter, she alleged that the supervisor suspended her from work on two occasions.

Yan has worked in the CNMI since 1998. From February 2004 until she was terminated effective Nov. 1, 2005, she worked for MGM. She filed the case a day after her termination.

Yan traveled to China in July 2005 and returned in August 2005. She conceded that there was no discussion or approval of the travel, but testified that when she returned, she spoke personally with an administrative assistant in MGM's Personnel Office about recouping her expenses.

Yan said that she signed a document agreeing to buy her own ticket and meet her own medical expenses, at the request of their manager.

When Yan returned from China, she went back to work.

The letter of termination was issued on Oct. 22, 2005 (for unauthorized absences on Oct. 19, 20, and 21) and became effective on Nov. 1, 2005.

The company produced a document recounting efforts to get complainant to return to work after her absences, and her refusal to do so.

Yan testified about a telephone conversation between herself and a supervisor in which she declined to return to work.

Siemer said that Yan was paid all her wages due to the date of termination.

Siemer said that Yan had testified that she has not worked since she was terminated. "From the testimony, it appears that she has no other means of support," she said.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 10, 2000

Teno: Each gov't agency must shoulder utility cost

Due to increasing utilities costs of the government, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has underscored the need to change the present system where the budget of the executive branch covers payment of the power, water and sewer needs of all departments and agencies. He said a new scheme in which each branch of government is responsible for its own utilities costs, must be put in place to encourage public offices to conserve energy.

Only FDIC-member banks can come in to CNMI

Foreign banks that are not a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation have thin-thread chances of penetrating the strong banking sector in the Northern Marianas unless their assets exceed \$100 billion, commerce officials said. The commerce department is also bent in encouraging all banking institutions in the Northern Marianas, even local banks that were grandfathered by the existing banking laws, to secure membership with the FDIC.

Grandma wants simple life for Hillblom's daughter

At the age of four, Mercedita Feliciano has been swamped with offers to become a commercial model but her grandmother Milagros has simply turned down all of them. Milagros, 50, who acts as guardian for Mercedita, has every reason to keep her granddaughter away from the prying eyes of the public. Too much publicity may just endanger the life of her grandchild who has inherited more than \$40 million from the Hillblom Estate.

April 10, 2001

Power shortage looms

Overall efforts by the CNMI government to lure more investors in the Northern Marianas could be in vain due to a looming power shortage caused by the virtually shelved 60 megawatt power plant project on Saipan. Government officials raised this alarm yesterday after reports claimed Enron has decided to pullout from the multi-million project which would have paved the road for a new 60-MW power plant on Saipan.

NMIRF demands payment of \$40M from CNMI gov't

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund will launch an aggressive step to collect the Commonwealth government's unpaid contributions that have ballooned to about \$40 million. Fund Board Chair Vicente Camacho said the government's continued refusal to settle its financial obligation has, in fact, resulted to multi-million revenue losses in several potential investments abroad.

Senate action on 3-year limit law disgusts Chamber

Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Anthony Pellegrino yesterday criticized the double-dealing nature of some senators when they voted for the passage of Senate Bill 12-108 last week. SB 12-108 seeks a two-year moratorium on the three year limit law, while a body made up of members from the public and private sector study its impact on the CNMI economy and community.

April 10, 2002

Theme park needs more land

The Pacific Castle Park and Family Entertainment is working with the Office of the Public Lands for the acquisition of additional four hectares of land in Koblerville that would complete the construction of the multi-entertainment complex. Pacific Castle Park owner and operator Bob Starr yesterday disclosed that he will be infusing an estimated \$20 million in fresh investments to complete the entertainment and recreational complex.

Pete A. touts tiered wage system

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio yesterday endorsed the creation of a tiered wage system in the Commonwealth that is patterned after the American Samoa model-a move that has long been recommended by Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Richard Pierce. What makes Tenorio's suggestion different, however, is that, while the tiered-wage system will be created locally, he wants the resulting legislation be adopted by the U.S. Congress for it to become a U.S. Public Law.



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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mr. Mugabe resists

For a day or two last week it looked as though Robert Mugabe might finally accept the end of his disastrous misrule of Zimbabwe. Authorities acknowledged that the opposition won a March 29 election for parliament, and there were reports that Mr. Mugabe was being urged to concede defeat in the presidential vote. Yet now, bolstered by the corrupt cadres of his ruling party and the security forces that still support him, the 84-year-old autocrat seems to be preparing to stay in power by force. While the results of the presidential vote are being withheld by the electoral commission, Mr. Mugabe's regime is suggesting it will contest a runoff election with opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai—one in which it would probably resort to the violence it used to win previous elections. On Sunday, Mr. Mugabe's thugs began invading white-owned farms, repeating a tactic the president adopted the last time he lost an election, in 2000.

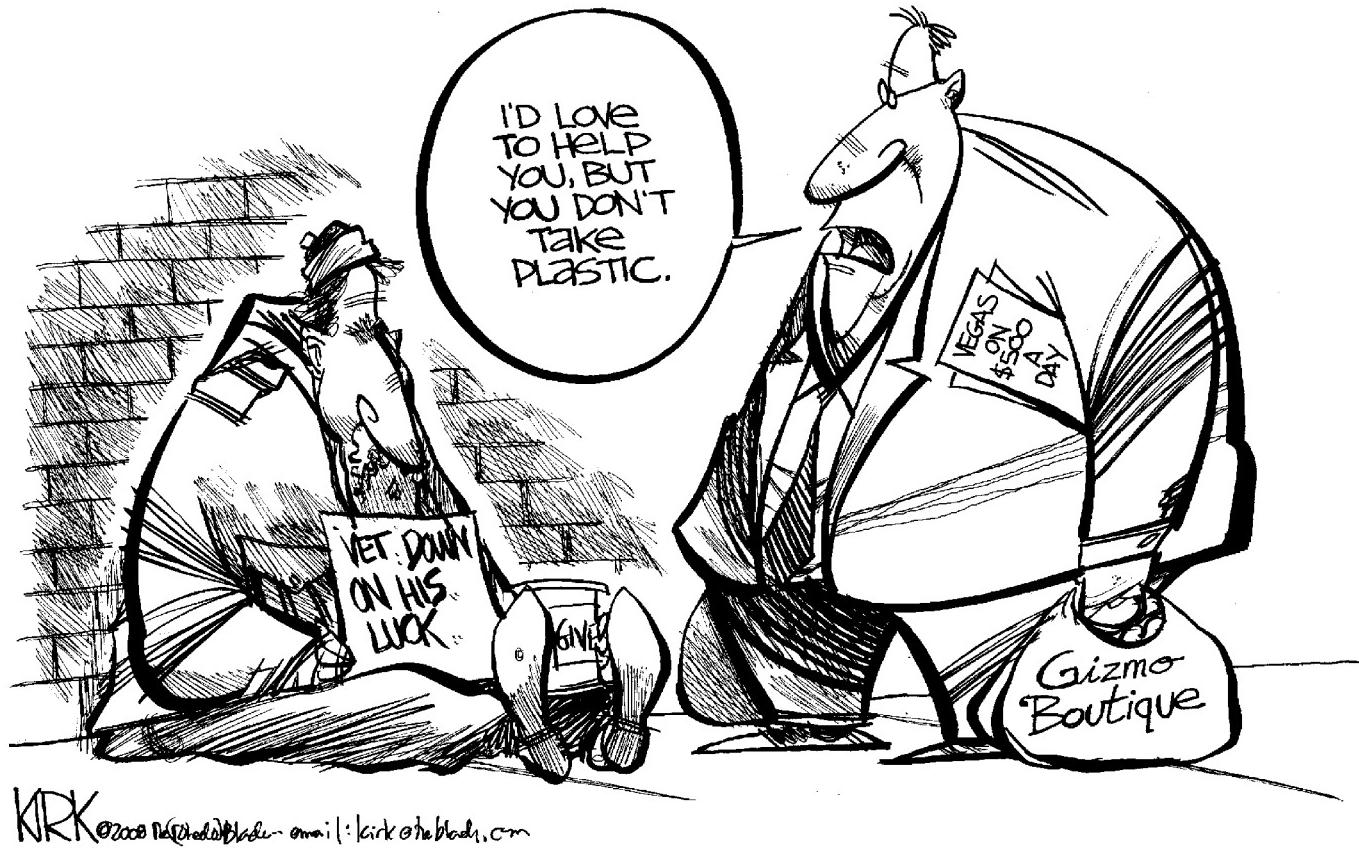
Mr. Tsvangirai charged in an opinion article published this week in Britain's *Guardian* newspaper that Mr. Mugabe "is now amassing government troops; blocking court proceedings" intended to force the release of the election results; raiding opposition offices; and mobilizing the militia groups involved in past electoral violence and land seizures. The opposition leader called for "strong action" from international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and "major powers ... such as South Africa, the US and Britain ... to oblige (Mr. Mugabe) and his minions to retire."

Mr. Tsvangirai maintains that he won more than 50 percent of the presidential vote and that any runoff—required when no candidate receives at least half the vote—would be "a sham." In fact, an independent survey put the opposition leader's total at just under 50 percent, compared with about 40 percent for Mr. Mugabe. If the official results mandate a runoff, the opposition would be wrong to reject it. But Mr. Tsvangirai is right to be wary of official manipulation—Mr. Mugabe's supporters are calling for a recount, even though results haven't yet been released—as well of the danger that a second round would be a cover for the regime's repression.

In a positive sign, the opposition leader has offered assurances to Mr. Mugabe and his supporters: that the president will not be prosecuted, that government employees will not be fired and that land awards to Mr. Mugabe's cronies will be preserved. That could be the foundation for a peaceful political transition. What's still needed is concerted action by the governments upon which Mr. Tsvangirai has called—starting with South Africa, which has been characteristically but inexplicably slow to use its influence in this crisis. South African President Thabo Mbeki claimed Saturday that there was "time to wait." In fact there is not: If Mr. Mugabe's violent campaign to remain in power is to be forestalled, Mr. Mbeki and other African leaders must act immediately.

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NEWS ITEM: VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFF USE GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARDS TO PAY FOR LUXURY HOTELS AND RETAIL EXPENSES.



Alignment

"Alignment is the essence of management."

—Fred Smith, CEO of Federal Express

A couple of weeks ago I had difficulty sleeping because my back was out of alignment, and every time I moved the slightest pain would wake me up. Proper alignment is essential for the health and well-being of many things in life. Correct back alignment is important for your physical well-being. Wheel alignment on your vehicle will improve its performance and maintain proper tire wear. And making sure your business is aligned is critical to improve its performance and produce optimal results.

George Labovitz and Victor Rosansky tell about the extraordinary turnaround of one of their clients who took over a major pharmaceutical company that was losing \$20 million. After three years of working with the company, it was earning \$20 million in profits, and the client said the one thing he learned is: "Alignment is everything!"

Labovitz and Rosansky have found through their research and experience that growth and profits come consistently to companies as a result of alignment between strategy, people, processes, and customers. Even during tough times, aligned companies are able to consistently "land on their feet" and outperform the competition.

Alignment is critical because it connects your employees' actions to the company mission, it links your people and processes to the changing needs of customers, it allows your organization to shape your business strategy using real-time information from customers, and it will create a culture in which all these elements work together seamlessly.

The first element is to develop your **strategy**. This acts as a blueprint for everyone to focus on critical initiatives, effectively use resources to concentrate on your organization's core competencies, and to be totally aligned with your *Unique Strategic Advantage*—the unique value created by your organization and highly valued by your ideal customers.

Organizations with a superior strategy will **ALWAYS** outperform those without one. It's the difference between a Wal-Mart and a K-Mart. However, the reality is that many organizations operate without a clear strategic plan, and of those that have a plan, approximately 90 percent of them fail to successfully implement their strategy because 95 percent of the employees don't understand the company's strategy, and 85 percent of executive teams spend less than one hour per month discussing it.

The second component involves aligning your strategy with your **people**, and offering professional development programs. Many organizations believe that their employees represent their most valuable asset, and numerous studies demonstrate the high monetary return on investment that comes from investing in your people.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGRAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at rikv@bizresults.org.



The third component looks at your **processes** (a series of activities or tasks) and systems (overall structure) for creating value for your customer. Processes involve not only what you do, but also how you do it. A study by Proudfoot Consulting revealed that 37 percent of all working time is wasted because of poorly planned and managed work or inadequate supervision of workers. Increased efficiency results in faster service and a better customer experience.

The fourth component is the most critical because it involves your **customers**. Your ability to create and keep your customers is central to the long-term success of your business. Just reducing the loss of customers can have a significant impact on your bottom line. According to a *Bain and Company* study, a 5-percent increase in customer loyalty can grow a company's profitability by 40 percent to 95 percent. *Bain* investigated the connection between loyalty and growth and found that companies with the highest customer loyalty grew twice as much as competitors.

Alignment links strategy and employees and integrates them with customers and process improvements to ultimately create greater growth and profit in your business. Is your business in alignment? ■ ■ ■

We have written almost 300 articles in the *Saipan Tribune* with the purpose to provide you with ideas and information that will benefit you and your organization. In the past 11 years we have seen the economy take a rollercoaster drop—and we still haven't hit bottom. These truly are difficult times where all organizations are taking drastic measures and cutting costs to survive.

We would like to make a bigger commitment to improve the overall business situation by offering free reports that discuss specific steps to improve your specific business situation. These are available to any interested business owner at no charge. The first report will be given at a meeting, April 24th. The cost of the meeting is two hours of your time to brainstorm solutions to the most pressing problems we are facing in the CNMI. There is limited space available, so please email us at rikv@bizresults.org to reserve your free report and chair for the alignment session for CMNI businesses. When you email us, we will send a checklist and information to help create your strategy and align the various elements in your business, as well as further details about the meeting.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Iraq is a mess, but so was Germany

By DAVID STAFFORD
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Smash the enemy, deliver victory, topple the dictator, destroy his regime, eliminate his evil ideology, and establish peace and democracy. Oh, and—almost forgot—do this several thousand miles away on a distant continent while also fighting another life-or-death struggle elsewhere. Meanwhile, make sure to keep in step with our allies. And one last thing: Bring the troops back home as soon as possible.

Mission impossible? Entering year six of the Iraq war, with 4,000 Americans dead in the conflict, the president's popularity hitting new lows and results of the troop surge still fragile, it may look that way for the administration of George W. Bush. But we may also be rushing to judgment.

More than 60 years ago, during World War II, Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Dwight Eisenhower didn't think that his similar, even more daunting, mission was impossible. By the time he had completed his crusade in Europe and thanked his staff for a job well done at a farewell ceremony in Frankfurt in July 1945, the German army, or Wehrmacht, no longer existed, Hitler was dead, the Nazi Party had been dissolved, war criminals were behind bars awaiting trial and retribution, de-Nazification had begun, and western Germany—the part not occupied by the Soviet army—was on its way to becoming one of the most successful liberal democracies of the Western world. The Third Reich was history.

So what did the United States do right 60 years ago that it has—so far—failed to accomplish in Iraq since the iconic toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue in Baghdad and Bush's "Mission Accomplished" declaration aboard a U.S. carrier on May 1, 2003?

The question is, of course, superficial. It would be harder to think of two more different societies than Germany in 1945 and contemporary Iraq. The former—despite Hitler and the Third Reich—had a long tradition of law, order, constitutional government and civic society to draw on in rebuilding democracy. Nor was it riven by deep-rooted ethnic and sectarian religious tensions that erupted to the surface once the dictator's iron fist was removed. And although Germany certainly had hostile neighbors—especially to the communist East—the threat they posed served to create, not crack, political cohesion.

Yet in looking at Iraq over the past five years, it's hard not to find poignant echoes of the post-WWII experience and to wonder whether a better knowledge of that history might have helped prevent some basic errors. Or even—because there may be some small crumb of comfort for optimists here—that it's too soon to declare that the mission has failed. Sen. John McCain's 100-year horizon for a U.S. presence in Iraq may be stretching things. But let's not forget that the postwar occupation of Germany lasted

for a full decade.

In 1945, the Allies had a carefully thought-out plan for what would follow victory. For two years before his forces crossed the German frontier, Eisenhower and his staff at Allied headquarters worked on detailed plans for the occupation. The lines of command were clearly drawn, and everyone agreed that the military would be in charge. Thousands of soldiers were trained in the tasks of military government. Compare that with the chaotically devised schemes for Iraq that were cobbled together at the last minute amid squabbling between the Pentagon and the State Department. Or with the confused and confusing mandate handed to the hapless Jay Garner, the first administrator of postwar Iraq, to devise a comprehensive plan for its administration in a matter of weeks.

Nonetheless, plans, however thorough, are worthless if they cannot be implemented. For that, establishing law and order is a minimal and basic condition. There was plenty of looting and disorder when U.S. forces entered Germany. In fact, it was on a scale far greater than anticipated or now remembered, most of it due to the rage that millions of slave laborers who'd been deported to Germany from Nazi-occupied countries, chiefly Poland and the Soviet Union, vented on their captors upon liberation.

As in Baghdad five years ago, the disorder also engulfed cultural institutions. When U.S. forces entered Munich, Hitler's spiritual home and the seat of Nazi Party headquarters, scores of works of art simply disappeared from museums and art galleries. For two or three days, the northern city of Bremen was "probably among the most debauched places on the face of God's earth," wrote one witness of the frantic looting that took place after Allied soldiers entered its bomb-shattered streets.

But this anarchy was quickly and forcefully stamped out, and enough Allied forces remained in the country and in all major cities to impose stringent and often ruthless order. Military tribunals promptly disposed of Nazis who were inclined to continue the struggle by executing them or imposing severe terms of imprisonment.

The way victory was declared was crucial. Immediately after entering Germany in September 1944, Eisenhower issued a proclamation that declared: "We come as conquerors, but not as oppressors." The emphasis on conquest meant that military government ruled. There was no glib talk of liberation, and no dealing, either, with the large number of anti-Nazi exiles who had jockeyed for recognition as some sort of government in exile. Too many of them were long out of touch with realities on the ground or had axes to grind.

Critics of the Bush administration's handling of Iraq point to the decisions by L. Paul Bremer, Garner's replacement, to dismiss Baathists from public office and to dissolve the Iraqi army as critical and disastrous turning points that created a vast legion of the unemployed and disaffected. Yet in 1945, the Allies imple-

mented a similarly draconian policy in Germany. They dissolved the Nazi Party, carried out a thorough purge of Nazis in public office and even abolished the ancient state of Prussia, which they believed was at the root of German militarism. Millions of Wehrmacht soldiers languished in prisoner-of-war camps while their families struggled to survive.

None of this, however, had the catastrophic consequences seen in Iraq. One reason is that pragmatism almost immediately took hold. It quickly became clear that Germany could be rebuilt only with the help of numerous people who had been members of the Nazi Party.

The Allies entered Germany with a strict policy of "non-fraternization" that forbade their forces to have any but the most minimal and formal dealings with Germans. "Don't get chummy with Jerry," urged the G.I. newspaper Stars and Stripes. "In heart, body and spirit every German is a Hitler." But by July 1945, the policy had been abandoned as unenforceable. It was also alienating the very Germans needed to rebuild the country and establish democracy.

As for de-Nazification, it sounded good, and indeed was morally and politically necessary. But distinguishing between real and nominal Nazis often proved extremely difficult. Small officials who'd joined the party out of necessity were thrown out of office, while big businessmen who'd profited under Hitler were left alone. The policy generated growing hostility to the occupiers, and its implementation was soon handed over to the Germans themselves. This caused its own bitterness as the Germans were often seen as being too lenient.

Even so, despite this willingness to rethink and adjust, occupation policy floundered. Two years after Allied victory, Germany was in desperate straits, facing an economic crisis that threatened to nip democracy in the bud. Only the Marshall Plan, with its massive program of financial aid, saved the country from disaster. Self-government did not come until 1949, and Allied troops remained in West Germany as occupiers until 1955, a full decade after the defeat of the Third Reich. Unrepentant Nazis stayed active on the extreme fringes of West German politics for years, and a few ex-Nazis held high positions even in mainstream politics until the 1960s. The Christian Democratic politician Kurt Georg Kiesinger, who had joined the Nazi Party in 1933, was chancellor of the Federal Republic from 1966 to 1969.

Rebuilding a nation is possible. But even in the best of circumstances, it takes effort, time, patience and pragmatism. As 1945 confirms, liberation from a dictator in itself offers no easy path to peace or democracy. Battlefield victory is the easy bit. Building peace is a constant struggle—and it's a matter of years, not weeks.

David Stafford is the author of *Endgame 1945: The Missing Final Chapter of World War II*.

Letters to the Editor

Start the cuts from the top

It is beyond reasonable comprehension that the House would suspend rules and attempt to fast track HB 16-82, another gambling bill. The voters (remember them? The citizens of the CNMI?) have rejected gambling THREE TIMES. The House is clearly disrespecting the voters of the CNMI. This bill must go to committee for review and to public hearings and discussion before it is considered for House vote. There have been public hearings for those initiatives affecting Article XII. Why are there no hearings for a bill that would incorporate gambling in the Third Senatorial District? This is an emotional issue and one that needs public discussion.

The legislators are supposed to be working for the people of the CNMI, not imposing their will on them. It would certainly raise a lot of questions about which special interests or individuals would benefit from gambling in the Third District. Since the voters have previously rejected gambling and now the legislators are fast-tracking yet another gam-

bling bill without not so much as a word of input from the voters, it can reasonably be assumed that shady backdoor dealings are occurring to benefit a few already rich politicians and their cronies. There can be no good from this.

I sincerely hope that the voters are watching the progress of this bill. Those legislators supporting this bill should be viewed as disrespecting the people of Saipan, as possibly seeking self gain (once again, the suspicion of corruption rears its ugly head)...and should be voted out of office.

Instead of the rich getting richer and the poor barely able to put food on the table, why not even the playing field by giving up all of your costly perks (your voters pay for their own gas, buy their own cars, pay for their cell phone use...why can't you?). You should be leading the people, setting an example of austerity, and working to help this economic mess. The citizens of CNMI are fed up. Stop wasting time on foolish, self-enriching gambling bills. Stop fast tracking bills without doing due diligence.

And for the sake of all citizens of the CNMI, start doing something constructive. You old guard politicians (with the exception of Rep. Heinz Hofsneider and several others) should follow the example of some of the freshman (or freshwomen) House members who are working FOR the citizens of the CNMI.

One final note: The Fitial administration is working so diligently to stop the federally mandated minimum wage increases and to pass HB16-8 (the austerity bill) which effectively cuts salaries of all of the lowest paid employees in the government. Why is the government expending so much energy in keeping salaries so low? Must be so the rich don't have to pay the workers a decent wage and, hence, can become...well...richer. Yet the austerity measures exempt legislators, the Governor and his lieutenant, judges, and others who are not living on the edge. The austerity measures still allow for the incredible excesses of government—excesses that have been addressed so many times in the past yet still exist. Is this the

workings of a government who really cares about the hard working and poorly paid citizens of the CNMI? As one recent writer aptly noted: Would the Governor still suppress the wages if he were living on \$3.55 an hour? Let the government run like a business. If you make good decisions that economically benefit the people, you get a bonus. If you make lousy decisions, exhibit a poor work ethic, are found trying to enrich your own

pocket at the expense of the people, you get fired (or flogged, or placed in stocks in the town square, or put on a chain gang and clean the public toilets, or whatever it takes). Forget the gambling! Start austerity at the top! Streamline the fat, the perks, the junkets, the high salaries! The voters are watching more closely than ever.

Bill Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Thank you

"Gratitude is something of which none of us can give too much. For on the smiles, the thanks we give, our little gestures of appreciation, our neighbors build up their philosophy of life."

—A.J. Cronin

To NMC president Carmen Frances Fernandez:

On behalf of the 2008 NMC Graduates, we would like to thank you for your generous donation for our upcoming graduation Mass. This time has been difficult for us, but knowing we have the support of people like you certainly helps. We won't forget your kind gesture. We really appreciate it.

Maryann A. Borja
I-Denni, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲82° ▾75°

▲83° ▾75°

▲82° ▾75°

▲82° ▾75°

▲82° ▾75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85 ▾76
Palau	Cloudy	▲88 ▾76
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▾77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▾78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▾75
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▾77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▾74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▾54
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲62 ▾52
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▾77
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲80 ▾72
London	Showers	▲55 ▾37
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲75 ▾55
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲91 ▾76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲70 ▾61
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▾70
New York	Cloudy	▲64 ▾46
Osaka	Rain	▲64 ▾55
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲52 ▾39
Pusan	Rain	▲60 ▾47
Rome	Thundershowers	▲68 ▾59
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▾39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68 ▾49
Seoul	Showers	▲62 ▾43
Tokyo	Rain	▲56 ▾50
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▾53

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
4:39AM Today	Low Tide: 1.2 Feet
9:33AM Today	High Tide: 2.0 Feet
5:07PM Today	Low Tide: 0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

	Today	6:06AM	6:31PM	Today	9:17AM	10:55PM

Moonrise/Moonset

	Today	6:06AM	6:31PM	Friday	10:20AM	11:58PM

	Saturday	6:05AM	6:31PM	Saturday	11:24AM	

	Sunday	6:04AM	6:31PM	Sunday	12:26PM	12:54AM

	Monday	6:04AM	6:31PM	Monday	1:24PM	1:43AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya

NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily Nagoya

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6

CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

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 COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Tinian Veterans' meeting

The Tinian Veterans' Association will hold its monthly meeting today, April 10, at the Main Pavilion, Kammer Beach. All Tinian veterans are invited to attend. For more information, contact Vincent King, Veterans Affairs officers, at 433-1805 or 888-4058. (PR)

Open House today at Chacha Ocean View

The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School is pleased to announce that the school will be having an Open House Night today, April 10, 2008, from 4pm to 6pm to distribute 3rd Quarter Student Report Cards. Should you have any questions and/or comments, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. (PR)

Slots open for GOP nat'l convention

The CNMI Republican Party has announced the availability of the following positions for interested individuals from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to participate in the upcoming Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota from Sept. 1 to 5, 2008.

Interested individuals must submit a letter of intent, resume, and complete an application.

The following programs are available:

- Page program: Applicant must be at least 16-25 years old;
- Intern program: Applicant

must be currently enrolled at any postsecondary educational institution; and

- Delegate aide: Applicant must be able to assist the delegation and be at all meetings called by the chairman.

All expenses to attend the RNC convention must be the responsibility of the applicant. Deadline to apply is April 10, 2008, by 5pm. Final selection will be made by the RNC Committee on Arrangements.

Submit the required documents through email to ana.teregyo@gmail.com. (GOP)

KagES Cultural Day set

Kagman Elementary School is celebrating their 8th Annual Cultural Day Festivities on Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

Kagman Elementary School Community is inviting the public to join them celebrate their 8th Cultural Day Festivities. There will be presentation of the 2008 Mr. & Miss Blue Marlin King and Queen Royal Courts, cultural presentations, games, food, and drinks on sale. Come and support our school in making our 8th Annual Cultural Day Festivities a successful event.

Hopwood upcoming events

April 10 PTSA meeting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Topic: Promotion and Accreditation

April 14-18 Testing days for the SAT 10. Students' attendance is important for these testing dates

May 4,5,6 Accreditation visit. Parent and community involvement is highly encouraged

May 19 - 20 8th Grade Final Exams

May 28 8th Grade Promotion Day (2:30pm-5:30pm)

MHS Calendar of Events

April 21-25 SAT10 Tests

May 5-16 Advanced Placement Tests

May 12-16 Standards-Based Assessment Tests

May 26 No classes (Memorial Day)

May 31 MHS Commencement Ceremony

June 3 Fourth Quarter ends

KagES registration starts

Kagman Elementary School has started registering children for grades Kindergarten to 5th for school year 2008-2009. Registration will end on April 30, 2008, from 9am to 4pm daily.

Kagman Elementary School will register children from the following areas only: Kagman I, II, III, Upper Papago (Botanical Garden to Kagman), Agag, and As Teo.

Kindergarten students: Child must be 5 years old, on or before Aug. 31.

First grade students: Child must be 6 years old, on or before Aug. 31.

The following documents are required for your child(ren) to be enrolled: official registration form, birth certificate, CHC health certificate (original), transcript/report card/withdrawal from exiting school, entry permit, if not a U.S. citizen, affidavit of guardianship/power of attorney (if applicable), map of residence, and health insurance policy. All students registering must have complete documents submitted on or before the end of the designated registration dates.

For more information, call the school at 237-3965/3966/3967. (PR)

March vs cancer in May

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all cancer survivors to attend the 2008 MMAAC at the Hopwood Junior High School field on May 16-17, 2008. The event will run from 6pm to 6am. Cancer survivors are invited to attend the dinner event which will be held in their honor. Call Nora Sablan at 235-0998 or e-mail her at norasablan@gmail.com to RSVP and to update your contact information. (MMAAC)

Team registration for MMAAC

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is reminding

the general public that the deadline for team registration for the upcoming 2008 MMAAC is this Friday, April 11, 2008.

The MMAAC Committee is encouraging anyone interested in forming a team in honor of a loved one who has experienced cancer or has lost the battle against this deadly disease to contact MMAAC as soon as possible. If you or anyone you know has been touched in one way or another by cancer, we urge you to join the battle against one of the leading causes of death in the CNMI and the world. Attend the Team Captains' meeting at 5:30pm on April 9 at the Hyatt Regency's Chamolinian Room.

For more information email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisconcepcion@gmail.com or Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com. (PR)

Koblerville Elementary School announcements

Kindergarten Registration for Koblerville Elementary School began on April 8, 2008. Applicants will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration forms for ongoing KoES students for SY 08-09 will be sent home along with a notification on any required documents that need to be updated. Parents are being asked to come into the school and turn in these documents as soon as possible.

The next PTSA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 8, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. There will be a performance for parents led by the school's first grade students. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this very important meeting. (PR)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REBECCA C. WHITE	:	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff.	:	NO. 07-412
vs.		
SOOK IN HAM and DONG KYU LEE,	:	
Defendants.	:	

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court as Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 25th day of March, 2008:

An event to benefit higher education in the Northern Mariana Islands



Early Registration Fee \$85
Late Entry after April 19 is \$100
Maximum 120 players limited slots available.
First come first serve.

Hole in One PRIZES

Hole # 3 - \$5,000.00
Hole # 7 - \$25,000.00
Hole # 13 - \$25,000.00
Hole # 17- 2008 Mazda 3

6th Annual NMC Foundation Open

Saturday April 26 LaoLao Bay West Course
Show Time 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. Shotgun start
Ladies flight, Senior flight & Men's Championship, A,B & C flights

PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY:

■ 1st Prize \$500 ■ 2nd Prize \$300 ■ 3rd Prize \$200
Plus much more!

Contact Northern Marianas College at (670) 234-5498, Ext 1050 or Email: nmcboards@yahoo.com

SPECIAL DOUBLE PEORIA FOR NEW FLIGHTS
1st. PLACE \$500.00
2nd. PLACE \$300.00
3rd. PLACE \$200.00
Tournament prize winners will not be eligible.

AON Insurance
Bank of Hawaii
Carmen Safeway
Casa Urashima
Century Insurance
Chong's
CTSI Logistics
D&Q
DFS
Dial-rent-to-Own
Dolphin Wholesale
Eagle Corp. (Garapan Market)
FAS Moving
First Hawaiian Bank
G4S

Gold's Gym
Hafa Adai Productions Inc.
HIS
Horizon Lines
Hyatt Regency Saipan
KCNM/KZMI
KWAW 100.3
Midpac
Misa Ent. (Kimpachi)
Pacific Trading
PDI
Power 99
Saipan Sunset Cruise
Saipan Tribune
Sanko

Staywell
Sushi Land
Tan Holdings
TakeCare
Sablan Topline
Triple J
UMDA (Island Apparel)
USG Investment





EMO sets groundbreaking for Operations Center

The CNMI Emergency Management Office will be initiating a \$4 million project for the Development of the Emergency Operations Center with

a groundbreaking ceremony on Capital Hill tomorrow, April 11.

The EOC project is expected to infuse fresh revenue into the CNMI's economic base, as well

as provide the CNMI with a true state-of-the-art command and control center to better equip the CNMI to address both man-made and natural disasters.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The conceptual design for the CNMI Emergency Operations Center.

Tinian son is newest Marine helicopter pilot

1st Lt. Adrian Anthony R. Evangelista, a resident of San Jose Village, Tinian, recently earned his wings as a helicopter pilot for the U.S. Marine Corps.

The designation ceremony for the newest helicopter pilots of the Navy and Marine Corps was held April 4 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla. The new pilots received their training at Helicopter Training Squadrons 8, 18 and 28.

Evangelista graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy before attending flight training and earning his wings of gold as a helicopter pilot.

Rear Adm. Gary Jones, commander, Naval Education and Training Command, spoke during the graduation ceremony, where he lauded the proud history of the Navy and Marine Corps Team.

"From combat in Iraq and

Afghanistan to relief operations around the world and here at home, the Navy and Marine Corps Team has proven ready to meet any challenge," he said.

"You should have no doubt in your minds that your new careers are the stuff of dreams! The dream is freedom. Freedom for people to vote in the first free elections their country has ever known, and freedom for children to go to school for the first time," said Jones. "The enduring roles of the Navy and Marine Corps team demand the formidable presence and striking power of Naval aviation. A forward-deployed Navy and Marine Corps team, ready to project power, shape events, deter conflicts, and defeat aggression, demonstrate our Nation's commitment to its allies."

Jones also reminded the au-

dience that combat is not the only role for the US military or their aviation forces. Last November Tropical Cyclone Sidr ravaged the Southern coast of Bangladesh, killing more than 3,000 people and leaving many thousands of others without the basics of food, water and shelter. Sailors and Marines aboard USS *Kearsarge* and USS *Tarawa* delivered more than 200,000 pounds of relief supplies, as well as airlifting patients for medical treatment.

"As rotary wing aviators, you will have opportunities to make a positive difference in the world. I know the future is bright for Naval aviation, our Navy Marine Corps Team, and our nation," said Jones.

For more information on the Naval Education and Training Command, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rear Adm. Gary Jones, commander, Naval Education and Training Command, poses with US Marine Corps 1st Lieutenant Adrian Anthony R. Evangelista and his family.

Acting EMO director Mark S. Pangalinan said: "The initiation of this project took place back in 2003 with the receipt of federal funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"). However, after so many changes on the A&E Design and after careful assessment of its functional operation, the EOC project is only now becoming a reality. Thanks to the support and guidance of the Administration and Governor Filial, we can now look forward to the groundbreaking ceremony, construction, as well as the completion phase of such a significant project next year."

EMO and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu

District office collaborated to ensure that all facets of design, planning and construction are completed according to plan.

James Hatashima, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District Senior Project Manager said: "It was truly a team effort to make this project a reality. The USACE-Honolulu District, is proud to have assisted the EMO to execute and acquire the necessary grant funds from FEMA to construct the EOC facility. The dedicated effort of the EMO staff should be commended along with FEMA for providing outstanding support to complete the design phase of this project. The USACE-Honolulu District also sincerely appreciates the support of Gov-

ernor Filial, in the continuation with the design phase of the project, which has resulted in the award of the construction contract to GPPC in February 2008."

The FEMA-funded EOC was successfully awarded to GPPC, Inc., while the USACE will provide engineering services as designated project engineers.

The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for tomorrow, April 11, 2008, from 10am to 12pm. Those invited include government officials, island mayors, departmental heads of the emergency support agencies and several non-profit organizations such as the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. (EMO)

Free grazing workshop for islands' ranchers

The Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council, in cooperation with the three CNMI Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is hosting a free grazing workshop for all interested farmers, ranchers and conservation agencies in the CNMI. Everyone with grazing livestock is encouraged to attend.

The workshop will focus on various aspects of grazing lands management including recommended plants for the best quality livestock forage, pasture planting techniques, weed control options, animal nutrition, soils and other management principles designed to give island cattle and goat ranchers the tools they need to maximize productivity while protecting their animals' health and conserving their natural resources.

Technical expertise for the workshop will be provided by grazing experts from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Presenters for the workshop will include area soil scientist Robert Gavenda from Guam, and state rangeland conservationist from Hawaii, Lori Metz, along

with Jeff Repp and Gene Fultz, both grazing land technology specialists from the NRCS West Region Technical Center in Portland, Oregon. Several employees from the local NRCS Field Office on Saipan will also participate and provide local commentary.

A full day of technical advice will be delivered on each island starting with Tinian on Thursday, April 17, then moving to Saipan on Friday, April 18. The workshop on Rota will be held on Monday, April 21.

The workshop will consist of a walking tour and field presentation starting at 8am on an actual working ranch that is currently participating in NRCS conservation programs. In the afternoon, the workshop will continue in a classroom segment until 4:30pm to be held at the Northern Marianas College campus on each island.

Workshop attendees on Tinian will gather at the ranch of Frank Diaz for the morning session. Anyone requiring directions to the location can meet at the DLNR office at 7:30am and follow NRCS staff to the Diaz ranch.

The field portion for the Saipan segment will be held at the ranch of Captain Ernest Torres in the Obyan area. Attendees are asked to gather at the NRCS field office on Beach Road at 7:30am should they need directions to the Torres Ranch. Afternoon classes will be held in Room D-1 of the NMC campus.

Rota attendees will gather at the NMC campus at 7:30am for directions to the field portion which will be held at the ranch of Maria Fujihira, in the Lalayak area. After lunch, the workshop will continue in Room B-2 of the Rota NMC campus. Attendees must arrange their own transportation.

All those interested in attending the free workshop are encouraged to contact the NRCS field office for specific information the day before. Call 236-0888 or 236-0880.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). (USDA)



MARIANAS EYE DONATION

The Marianas Eye Institute presents a \$250 check to Polly Deleon Guerrero, Scholarship chairperson, and Frannie Torres-Salas, chapter president for the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. The funds will be used to grant two scholarships to students who are interested in pursuing a degree in Human Resource Management.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil steady as traders await US data

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices were steady Wednesday ahead of the release of a U.S. government report expected to show gasoline inventories fell last week. Oil prices have been supported recently by a growing belief that U.S. gasoline supplies are falling as the summer driving season in the Northern Hemisphere approaches. Last week, the U.S. Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said gasoline inventories fell more than expected during the week ended March 28. It is expected to report later Wednesday that gasoline stockpiles fell another 2.3 million barrels last week, according to a Dow Jones Newswires survey of analysts.

Stocks fall after earnings, Fed minutes

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street retreated Tuesday after aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. and chip maker Advanced Micro Devices Inc. issued disappointing reports and the Federal Reserve voiced concerns about the slumping economy. The Dow fell 35.99, or 0.29 percent, to 12,576.44. Broader stock indicators also dropped. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 7.00, or 0.51 percent, to 1,365.54, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 16.07, or 0.68 percent, to 2,348.76, taking a larger hit because of concerns about high-tech companies following the news from AMD and Novellus. Government bonds were little changed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, ended at 3.56 percent, up from 3.54 late Monday.

UPS cuts 1st-quarter profit outlook

ATLANTA (AP)—The first quarter was rough for UPS Inc. amid higher fuel costs, a weakening U.S. economy and reduced domestic package volume, the world's largest shipping carrier said as it cut its earnings forecast for the January-March period. The company lowered its first-quarter earnings expectations to 86 or 87 cents per share, compared with a previously anticipated range of 94 to 98 cents a share. Analysts polled by Thomson Financial, on average, were expecting earnings of 93 cents per share. UPS shares fell \$3.06, or 4.2 percent, to \$70.25 in electronic after-hours trading Tuesday. They had fallen 47 cents to \$73.31 in the regular session before the announcement.

Pending home sales hit low in February

WASHINGTON (AP)—Homeowners and investors hunting for any indication that the housing market has bottomed out didn't get it Tuesday, as the latest home sales data from a real estate trade group moved that sign further down the road to recovery. The National Association of Realtors said pending U.S. home sales fell in February to the lowest reading since the index began in 2001. The trade group's seasonally adjusted index of pending sales for existing homes fell to 84.6 from January's upwardly revised reading of 86.2. A year earlier, the index stood at 107.6. Wall Street economists surveyed by Thomson/IFR had predicted the index would inch up to a reading of 86.3. A reading of 100 is equal to the average level of sales when the index started. The previous low was August's reading of 85.8, recorded at the height of the credit crunch.

Fed officials worried about recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—Worries about a deep recession—not a shallow one—drove Federal Reserve policymakers to slash a key interest rate last month, meeting minutes show.

Even as the Fed battled in almost unprecedented fashion to stem a widening credit and housing slump, some members fretted over the possibility of a "prolonged and severe" economic downturn. It was in that environment that they voted—with two dissents—to cut its most important interest rate by three-quarters of a percentage point to 2.25 percent. That action capped the most aggressive Fed intervention in a quarter-century.

Some Fed policymakers

thought that such a widening recession could not be ruled out given the "further restriction of credit availability and ongoing weakness in the housing market," according to the meeting minutes that were made public Tuesday.

On Wall Street, stocks fell. The Dow Jones industrials lost 35.99 points.

Two Fed members—Charles Plosser, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and Richard Fisher, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas—opposed such a big rate reduction, however. They favored a smaller cut because of concerns about a potential inflation flare-up. It was a crack in the mostly unified front that the Fed often

has projected to the public.

The minutes of the closed-door March meeting underscored the economic cross-currents pulling at Fed policymakers.

"With the uncertainties in the outlook for both economic activity and inflation elevated, members noted that appropriately calibrating the stance of (interest-rate) policy was difficult," the minutes stated.

On the one hand, the Fed has been urgently moving to prevent the trio of economic woes—housing, credit and financial—from plunging the country into a deep recession. On the other hand, with soaring energy prices and high food costs, policymakers realize that they can't afford to let inflation get out of control, either.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for its patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

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2nd Walkathon
Saipan • Tinian • Rota
April 12, 2008

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- 10K walk from 4-H Building to Garapan fishing basin
- Walk starts at 6:00am
- Coke, Foremost and Subway will provide free refreshments
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- Prizes include, a computer, digital camera, Nintendo Wii, cell phones, Movie passes, waterpark passes, banana boat ride, gift certificates for Java Joe's, Shirley's, Country House, Pizza Hut, Ace Hardware, Athlete's Foot, Lollipop, Big Dipper, Capricciosa, National Office Supply, J's Restaurant, Go Cart track, Palms Resort, Club Elan and much more!
- ALL walkers who raise \$15.00 will get a cool Walkathon T-shirt
- ALL walkers who raise \$75.00 will receive a FREE 1GB MP3 Player

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Nation

Documents: Sect married girls at puberty

By MICHELLE ROBERTS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—A polygamist compound with hundreds of children was rife with sexual abuse, child welfare officials allege in court documents, with girls spiritually married to much older men as soon as they reached puberty and boys groomed to perpetuate the cycle.

The documents released Tuesday also gave details about the hushed phone calls that triggered the raid, by a 16-year-old girl at the West Texas ranch who said her 50-year-old husband beat and raped her.

Days after raiding the compound, officials still aren't sure where the girl is.

Officials have completed removing all 416 children from the ranch and have won custody of all of them, Child Protective Services spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner told reporters in San Angelo, about 40 miles from the compound in Eldorado.

Court documents said a number of teen girls at the 1,700-acre compound were pregnant, and that all the children were removed on the grounds that they were in danger of "emotional, physical, and/or sexual abuse." Another 139 women left on their own.

"Investigators determined that there is a widespread pattern and practice of the (Yearn for Zion) Ranch in which young, minor female residents are conditioned to expect and accept sexual activity with adult men at the ranch upon being spiritually married to them," read the affidavit signed by Lynn McFadden, a Department of Family and Protective Services investigative supervisor.



Law enforcement officers are seen outside the temple wall of the "Yearning For Zion" Ranch, home of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Eldorado, Texas, Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

AP

General won't promise more Iraq pullouts

WASHINGTON (AP)—The top U.S. commander in Iraq told Congress Tuesday that hard-won gains in the war zone are too fragile to promise any troop pullouts beyond this summer, holding his ground against impatient Democrats and refusing to commit to more withdrawals before President Bush leaves office in January.

Army Gen. David Petraeus painted a picture of a nation

struggling to suppress violence among its own people and to move toward the political reconciliation that Bush said a year ago was the ultimate aim of his new Iraq strategy, which included sending more than 20,000 extra combat troops.

Security is getting better, and Iraq's own forces are becoming more able, Petraeus said. But he also ticked off a list of reasons for worry, including the threat

of a resurgence of Sunni or Shiite extremist violence. He highlighted Iran as a special concern, for its training and equipping of extremists.

In back-to-back appearances before two Senate committees, Petraeus was told by a parade of Democrats that, after five years of war, it was past time to turn over much more of the war burden to the Iraqis. Those senators said Iraq will not at-

tain stability until the United States makes the decision to begin withdrawing in large numbers and forces the Iraqis to settle their differences.

Republican Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio, a longtime critic of the administration's war strategy, told Petraeus: "The American people have had it up to here."

Petraeus responded, "I certainly share the frustration."

67 bodies secretly exhumed from NM grave

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Working in secret, federal archaeologists have dug up the remains of dozens of soldiers and children near a Civil War-era fort after an informant tipped them off about widespread grave-robbing.

The exhumations, conducted from August to October, removed 67 skeletons from the parched desert soil around Fort Craig - 39 men, two women and 26 infants and children, accord-

ing to two federal archaeologists who helped with the dig.

They also found scores of empty graves and determined 20 had been looted.

The government kept its exhumation of the unmarked cemetery near the historic New Mexico fort out of the public's eye for months to prevent more thefts.

The investigation began with a tip about an amateur historian who had displayed the mummi-

fied remains of a black soldier, draped in a Civil War-era uniform, in his house.

Investigators say the historian, Dee Brecheisen, may have been a prolific looter who spotted historical sites from his plane. Brecheisen died in 2004

and although it was not clear whether the looting continued after his death, authorities exhumed the unprotected site to prevent future thefts.

"As an archaeologist, you

want to leave a site in place for preservation ... but we couldn't do that because it could be looted again," Jeffery Hanson, of the Bureau of Reclamation, told The Associated Press.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. girl hit with game controller dies

YORK, Pa. (AP)—A 2-year-old girl died after being beaten with a video game controller by her mother's boyfriend, police said Tuesday. Darisabel Baez's mother overheard the beating Sunday but did nothing until she realized the girl was unconscious, police said. The girl was pronounced dead late Monday at Hershey Medical Center, police Lt. Ron Camacho said. Homicide was added to the list of charges against Harve L. Johnson on Tuesday; he was already in jail on counts including aggravated assault and reckless endangerment. The girl's mother, Neida E. Baez, was charged with endangering the welfare of a child.

Colombia trade deal splits Clintons

WASHINGTON (AP)—The presidential campaign of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday that her husband, the former president, supports a free trade agreement with Colombia that she strenuously opposes. The acknowledgment adds new hurdles to the New York senator's bid to woo Democratic voters in Pennsylvania and elsewhere who believe free trade agreements have eliminated thousands of U.S. jobs. On Sunday, she demoted her chief campaign strategist for his role in promoting the Colombia pact. Hillary Clinton told union activists Tuesday she would do everything in her power to defeat the Colombia Free Trade Agreement now before Congress.

Security high for Olympic torch's US leg

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Security was tightened on the Golden Gate Bridge and elsewhere around the city Tuesday as officials prepared for massive protests of China's crackdown in Tibet during the Olympic torch's only North American stop on its journey to Beijing. The Olympic flame was whisked to a secret location shortly after its pre-dawn arrival Tuesday following widespread and chaotic demonstrations during the torch relay in London and Paris. Activists are protesting China's human rights record, its grip on Tibet and support for Sudan despite years of bloodshed in Darfur. The torch is scheduled to be paraded through the city Wednesday on a six-mile route that hugs San Francisco Bay.

Soldier, wife accused of killing toddler

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A Fort Bliss soldier and his wife were arrested Tuesday on charges of killing a 2-year-old girl in their care and seriously injuring her older brother while their military parents served overseas. Investigators were working with the military to reach the children's parents - their father is stationed in Iraq and their mother in Germany. Staff Sgt. Nakia Dawkins, 32, and his 29-year-old wife, Shawntrell Dawkins, were booked into the El Paso County jail on charges of capital murder and abuse of a child. Police described them as the children's guardians and not blood relatives. El Paso police Officer Chris Mears said he didn't know the couple's exact relationship to the children's parents.

Man arrested in Texas party shooting

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Police on Tuesday arrested a man accused of opening fire at a child's birthday party, killing a woman and her 5-year-old granddaughter. Authorities said Erick Daniel Davila, 21, was arrested on a capital murder warrant, a charge that carries the death penalty. Officers followed Davila after seeing him at an apartment complex, but he tried to get away by driving through another complex where he hit some cars, crashed into a fence and then ran away while carrying a gun before he was caught by SWAT officers, said police Lt. Paul Henderson. Davila was being questioned by police and had not been booked into the jail as of late Tuesday afternoon, according to a jail employee. It was unclear whether he had an attorney.



Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Candidate killed days before Nepal vote

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A communist party candidate was shot and killed Tuesday just two days before Nepalese elect an assembly that will rewrite the constitution, a key step toward cementing democracy in this troubled nation. Clashes also broke out Tuesday between former communist rebels and police in a southwestern town, leaving six of the former rebels dead, police said. The slain candidate, Rishi Prasad Sharma, belonged to one of Nepal's top three political parties, the Communist Party of Nepal United Marxist Leninist. He was killed by unknown gunmen in Jahare Bazar town in Surkhet district, said government administrator Anil Pandey.

Buddhist monks interrupt press tour

BEIJING (AP)—Buddhist monks have again disrupted a carefully controlled Chinese government media tour of their monasteries. The official Xinhua News agency says a group of monks at the Labrang monastery in western Gansu province interrupted

the event, but it soon resumed. The incident follows a similar interruption two weeks ago, when monks screamed that there was no religious freedom in Tibet during a government media tour of Lhasa.

Militants kill 17 Afghan road workers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Militants killed 17 road workers in Afghanistan's lawless south Tuesday, part of a spike in violence that left 40 people dead over two days. Sixteen other construction workers were wounded in the attack in Zabul's Shin-kay district, said Interior Ministry spokesman Zemeri Bashary. Afghan and international security forces responding to the ambush killed seven militants and wounded 12, he said.

2 die in Pakistan nuclear plant accident

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A gas leak sparked an explosion and fire Tuesday at a nuclear plant that is believed to produce enriched plutonium for Pakistan's atomic weapons program. Two workers were killed. The Khushab heavy wa-

ter plant was shut down while undergoing annual maintenance at the time, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission said. The commission evacuated the plant but assured the public that there was no risk of exposure outside the sprawling facility southeast of the capital, Islamabad. The "situation was immediately brought under control, and two workers lost their lives while controlling the incident," the commission said.

S. Korea vote for new legislature

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Koreans voted Wednesday for a new parliament in elections that will determine whether President Lee Myung-bak can easily push through his business-oriented agenda for revitalizing the economy. Lee's conservative Grand National Party was widely expected to win more seats than the liberal opposition United Democratic Party, restoring its dominance in the 299-member National Assembly. About 37.8 million people were eligible to cast ballots in races for the single-chamber legislature, the National Election Commission said.



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the **Saipan Tribune**, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW08-IFB-018

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL LED LAMPS AND PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL LED LAMPS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Traffic Signal LED Lamps and Pedestrian Signal LED Lamps, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 3, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (**US\$25.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on April 21, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room in Gualo Rai above Pizza Hut, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 24, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-018**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 2, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 2, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 2, 2008, and must be received no later than May 13, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 16, 2008. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 7, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (**60**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the authorized funding agency.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
Director, Energy Division

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, Procurement & Supply

World

Al-Sadr threatens to end cease-fire

BAGHDAD (AP)—Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr raised the stakes Tuesday in his showdown with government, threatening to end formally a seven-month cease-fire unless authorities stop attacks on his followers in Baghdad.

Formally ending the cease-fire could trigger renewed fighting throughout southern Iraq, nine days after a deal brokered

in Iran calmed the region.

But there was no letup in the clashes in the capital Tuesday, as American and Iraqi soldiers stepped up the pressure against Shiite militants in their Sadr City stronghold of northeast Baghdad. U.S. troops fired missiles at three mortar positions, killing 12 militants, the American command said. Iraqi police and hospitals

said 14 people were killed and 37 wounded in Sadr City.

Two more U.S. troops were killed in the Baghdad fighting, the U.S. command announced. At least 12 American service members have died in Iraq since Sunday. Also Tuesday, rockets or mortar shells also slammed into the U.S.-protected Green Zone, but the U.S. Embassy

said there were no casualties.

The bloodshed served as stark reminders of Iraq's continuing instability five years after U.S. troops swept into Baghdad and toppled Saddam Hussein's regime on April 9, 2003. The euphoria of victory was soon dissipated—first by a Sunni insurgency, then Sunni-Shiite slaughter and now battles against Shiite militiamen.

ASIAN BRIEFS

French hostage mission to leave Colombia

PARIS (AP)—The French Foreign Ministry says a humanitarian mission dispatched to Colombia for hostage Ingrid Betancourt will soon leave Colombia, following the rebels' rejection of their efforts. The ministry said Tuesday that Spain, Switzerland and France—the three countries that had put the mission together—believe it is no longer justified to keep the mission in Colombia. "It should therefore soon leave Colombia," the ministry said in a statement late Tuesday.

Mohamed Al Fayed accepts Diana ruling

LONDON (AP)—Mohamed Al Fayed said Tuesday that he was abandoning a quest to prove his belief that Princess Diana and his son were killed by British secret agents. Al Fayed said he reluctantly accepted a coroner's jury ruling that Diana and Dodi Fayed

were unlawfully killed due to reckless speed and drinking by their driver, and by the reckless pursuit of the paparazzi chasing them. "Enough is enough," Fayed said in an interview with ITV News broadcast Tuesday night. "For the sake of the two princes, who I know loved their mother." Al Fayed, the Harrods department store owner, said he still believed the couple was murdered and that the evidence presented at the inquest supported his theory.

HRW: CIA sent 14 suspects to Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—A human rights group said Tuesday that the CIA transferred at least 14 terror suspects to Jordan for interrogation after Sept. 11, attacks. Human Rights Watch said in a new report that the U.S. ally in the Mideast served as a proxy jailer for the CIA until at least 2004. "The Bush administration claims that it has not transferred people to foreign custody for abusive inter-

rogation," said Joanne Mariner, the group's terrorism and counterterrorism director. "But we've documented more than a dozen cases in which prisoners were sent to Jordan for torture." It said its 36-page report was based mainly on information from former Jordanian prisoners who had been detained with non-Jordanian terrorism suspects.

Zimbabwe opposition seeks Africa's help

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Opponents of President Robert Mugabe accused his regime Tuesday of unleashing thugs to attack opposition supporters and seizing white-owned farms in an attempt to retain power. They called on other African powers to intervene. Mugabe, who has led Zimbabwe for 28 years, has virtually conceded that he did not win March 29 elections and appeared to be campaigning for an expected runoff against Morgan Tsvangirai by intimidating foes and fanning racial tensions.

6 Filipinos among 30 hostages aboard hijacked French yacht

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Six Filipino crewmen were among 30 people taken hostage by pirates who seized a luxury French yacht off Somalia last week, a foreign affairs official said.

Le Ponant was carrying 30 crew, including 22 French citizens, but no passengers when it was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden on Friday.

A diplomatic solution must be found to secure the release of six Filipinos, the Philippine government said Wednesday.

French military officials in Paris said a French frigate and a plane from a military base in Djibouti were tracking the yacht. An anti-terrorist commando force was sent to the region to reinforce negotiation teams.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has emphasized the need for a diplomatic solution, deputy presidential spokesman Anthony Golez said in a statement.

"The safe return of the Filipinos must be of paramount importance," Golez said.

Top Chinese cops protect Olympic flame

BELJING (AP)—They wear bright blue tracksuits and Beijing Olympic organizers call them "flame attendants." But a military bearing hints at their true pedigree: paramilitary police sent by Beijing to guard the Olympic flame during its journey around the world.

Torchbearers have criticized the security detail for aggressive behavior, and a top London Olympics official simply called them "thugs."

"They were barking orders at

me, like 'Run! Stop! This! That!' and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, who are these people?'" former television host Konnie Huq told British Broadcasting Corp. radio about her encounter with the men in blue during London's leg of the relay Sunday.

So far, the "29th Olympic Games Torch Relay Flame Protection Unit"—as the squad is officially known—has kept the flame from being seized during chaotic, protest-filled runs through Paris and London.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

In Loving Memory

†Relina Dakano Tudela

January 30, 1940 — April 06, 2008

Lovingly known as "Lina"

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of Her:

Husband: Francisco Leon Guerrero Tudela

Children and Families:

Helen & Steven Eavansen (*William Moses, Barbara, Scott*)

Stephen & Noshi Lepton (*Ernest Diana, Riana, David*)

Emlok & †Erwin & Allan Zaccharias (*Jolina, Roselyn, Carrie, Erwina, Walter, Glen, Laura*)

Betty & Rickson Malakai-Hadley (*Darrel, Vanessa, Treamma, Ricardo, Roxannamun, Christianmaana*)

Ricky D. & Clarissa Tudela (*Relita, Kaelene, Ricky Jr., Kendrik*)

Francine D. Tudela & Murphy Paul

Henry D. & Carmen Anne S. Tudela (*Jordan, Henry Jr., Megan*)

Joseph D. Tudela

Dyahn & Arlys Regan (*Harvey, Harley, Jerry, Jesse, RJ, Leann*)

She is additionally survived by numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Brothers, Sister and In-laws:

†Epner & Elsie Dakano

Peter & Erihne Dakano

Isaser Jepehn

†Leonard Dakano

†Merly & †Simon Edgar

†Ruth & †Nathan Malakai

Enje & Petrik Peter

Apisak & †Kioshi Hespak

†Aslina & †Norman Obed

†Arline Matu

Elita & †Paillelli Copin

Angelina & Frank Sienes

†Vicenta & †Miguel Quitugua

Trinidad & †Antonio Santos

†Fridolin & †Esperanza Songgao

†Victorino & Maria Deleon Guerrero

†Francesca Tudela

†Pablo Tudela

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 p.m.
at Nuestra Señora de Soledad Church in Kagman.

On Monday, April 14, 2008, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to Nuestra Señora de Soledad Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment Services will be at Sanctorio Pax Memorial Gardens-Kagman, where she will be laid at a peaceful rest.

Menlao Ah Pehl Kahlahngan In Kumail.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Please join us in prayers.

**Francisco LG. Tudela
Children and Family**

Environment

Marine Protected Areas: More important than you think

Some people may not know the reasons behind the prohibition of fishing and other activities around some parts of our islands. These marine areas, in which taking certain things or taking nothing at all is enforced, are called Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Marine Protected Areas are parts of our marine environment that are protected by law or regulations from certain activities such as fishing. There are many reasons for establishing MPAs; the main idea behind these establishments is to protect our marine ecosystems so that they are able to replenish, reproduce and become healthier for the future. MPAs are also implemented with conservation of natural and cultural heritage in mind. In reality, "marine protected area" is a term that encompasses a variety of conservation and management methods.

However, there may be some confusion with the variety of names and terms used locally, regionally and nationally. A "marine reserve" is sometimes used in association with, or in place of, "marine protected area." Marine reserves refer specifically to no-take areas, where removing or destroying natural or cultural resources is prohibited. "Conservation area" or "sanctuary" are other terms used in association with MPAs.

There are six levels of protection: uniform multiple use,



CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach

zoned multiple use, zoned with no take areas, no take, no impact, and no access. The prevalent protection level in the CNMI is the no-take zone. There are four no-take Marine Protected Areas in the CNMI: Managaha Marine Conservation Area, Forbidden Island Sanctuary, Bird Island Sanctuary, and Sansahaya Bay Fish Reserve (Rota). There are two other MPAs in the CNMI that are not designated as no-take zones, but were established for specific species conservation purposes: Lau Lau Bay Sea Cucumber Sanctuary and Lighthouse Reef Trochus Sanctuary.

Some people may be against the establishments of MPAs because it restricts the activities of fishermen in certain areas; however, although this is a drawback, there are many beneficial outcomes that are produced through the no-take rule.

Foremost, fish within the no-take MPA are able to grow without the impact of human activity. This leads to an increase in the overall size of fish and reproduction rates relative to areas that are fished. For example, a 26-inch blue trevally (taliktok), which is twice as large as a 13-inch taliktok, can produce as much as 86 times more eggs than the 13-inch fish!. The basic idea behind this MPA type is to allow fish to grow to larger sizes which in turn produces more eggs. More eggs eventually lead

to the production of more fish, many of which end up in areas where fishing is allowed.

Another significant benefit from MPAs is "spillover." Spillover is caused when marine life, especially fish, flow out of the protected area. Scientific studies of MPAs all over the world have shown that fishing near the boundaries of MPAs is better because fish have "spilled over" from the protected area. After all, the fish don't know where the boundaries are! There are

See MARINE on Page 20



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bird Island sanctuary is a no-take area that includes the Grotto and extends 1,000 feet from the shoreline.

In Loving Memory

Gregoria Camacho Cabrera

Also known as "Nan Gora"

Was born on May 25, 1929. Was called to eternal life on April 5, 2008 at the age of 78

In her new life she now joins her

Husband: †Juan San Nicolas Cabrera "Potu"

Son: †Juan Camacho Cabrera

Mother: †Maria Aguon Camacho

Father: †Vidal Palacios Camacho

Mother-in-Law: †Ana San Nicolas Cabrera "Potu"

Father-in-Law: †Juan Taisague Cabrera "Potu"

Brothers/Brothers-in-Law, Sisters/Sisters-in-Law:



Her memories will live on in the hearts of

Daughter & Son-in-Law: Ignatia Marie Cabrera Aldan

and Jesse John Benavente Aldan "Kaching"

Grandchildren: Colleen Joyce Camacho Cabrera

John Gregory Cabrera Quitugua

Tiana Rose Cabrera Quitugua

John Anthony Reyes Hofsneider

Reared Daughter & Son-in-Law: Esther Elizabeth Camacho Suzuki and Robert Suzuki

Reared Grandchildren: Robert Kiyomichi Camacho Suzuki Jr.

Anthony Kyoaki Camacho Suzuki

Angelynn Kiyo Camacho Suzuki

Goralynn Jon Kiyomi Camacho Suzuki

Brothers & their Spouses: Bishop Tomas Aguon Camacho

Francisco Aguon Camacho and Isabel Villagomez Camacho

Juan Aguon Camacho and Emilia Villagomez Camacho

Roman Aguon Camacho and Beverly Manibusan Camacho

and numerous nieces and nephews

Daily masses will be held at 6:00 am and nightly rosaries will be said at 7:00 pm at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Her remains will leave the Borja's Funeral Home at 7:00 am on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Last respects may be paid following her arrival at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on the same day at 11:00 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral and burial services will follow at the Mount Carmel Cemetery, Chalan Kanoa.

The Family

Fifth Year Death Anniversary



We the family of the late

Jose S.N. Pangelinan (Bolis)

cordially invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the fifth death anniversary of our beloved Husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be celebrated at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. Masses will be offered at the following: April 11, 2008, Friday thru April 19, 2008, Saturday.

On Saturday, April 19, 2008 the final day after the mass celebration at 6:00 a.m., we, the family would like to extend an invitation to all our relatives and friends to join us for breakfast at the Social Hall.

Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

The Grand Amazing Showgirls in 2-night repeat performances



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WITH HIGH-BACK LOVSEATS

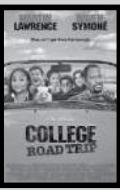
For Friday, April 4 through Thursday, April 10 only!

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★



Nim's Island

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20
Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG



College Road Trip

Friday 4:25 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:05
Martin Lawrence, Raven Symone
Comedy • Rated G



Leatherheads

Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
George Clooney, Renée Zellweger
Sports, Comedy • Rated PG13



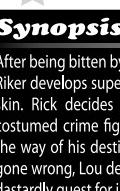
Drillbit Taylor

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Owen Wilson, Alex Frost
Comedy • Rated PG13



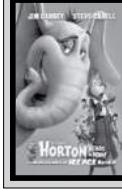
Superhero Movie

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00
Drake Bell, Sara Paxton
Comedy, Satire • Rated PG13



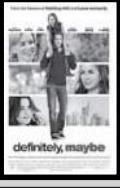
Synopsis

After being bitten by a genetically altered dragonfly, high school loser Rick Riker develops superhuman abilities like incredible strength and armored skin. Rick decides to use his new powers for good and becomes a costumed crime fighter known as "The Dragonfly." However, standing in the way of his destiny is the villainous Lou Landers. After an experiment gone wrong, Lou develops the power to steal a person's life force and in a dastardly quest for immortality becomes the supervillain, "The Hourglass."



Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

Friday 4:20 @ @
Saturday 1:15 4:20 @ @
Sunday 1:15 4:20 @ @
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 @
Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
Family, Animated • Rated G



Definitely Maybe

Friday 4:05 @ @
Saturday 1:05 4:05 @ @
Sunday 1:05 4:05 @ @
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 @
Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13



10,000 BC

Friday @ 7:10 9:50
Saturday @ @ 7:10 9:50
Sunday @ @ 7:10
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:10
Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13



Never Back Down

Friday @ 7:30 9:55
Saturday @ @ 7:30 9:55
Sunday @ @ 7:30
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:30
Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
Action, Drama • Rated PG13

• NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS

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Due to insistent public demand, all the contestants during the Grand Amazing Showgirls will have a two-night repeat in Club V.

The successful lip sync competition, held last month in Hibiscus Hall, featured 16 contestants and four special production numbers. This will be divided into two groups that will each perform in two separate nights.

Group 1 will perform tonight, April 10, 2008, while Group 2 will have their turn on April 24, 2008.

Tonight's performances will feature the following divas:

- Patricia – 2nd runner up
- Jackie Madrigal of Hibiscus Salon
- Jolly of Solomon Salon
- Jazmine of Trends Salon
- Sunshine of Trends Salon
- Venus of Serenity Salon and Spa
- Lyka of Marianas Resort and Spa
- Tammy – Star of the Night
- Jackielyn Bernabe of Kirei Salon
- Sharmaine – First Runner Up

Party and disco follows after the 10 performances. Doors open at 9:30pm with \$10 cover charge. Includes free drink and chaser. For reservations, call 285-6616. (PR)



Batch 2's All That Jazz production number during last month's finals night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Grand Champion, Angel.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Magic 5 with the PTI Diva Stars.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Patricia performs a Broadway-inspired number.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The top five finalists in last month's competition.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARINE

From Page 19

many other benefits that come out of MPAs, which will be featured in the upcoming Marine Protected Areas in the CNMI newspaper insert.

It is essential that residents of the CNMI learn about these conservation areas because they play a huge part in preserving our environment for the benefit of the people here now and for future generations. With an increased level of awareness of MPAs, CoCo hopes that our community, especially fishermen, will be the number one enforcers of the laws that protect our beautiful marine environment. It is important to understand that giving up some privileges will eventually create lasting resources for our future generations. (CoCo)

Lawsuit says Lohan stiffed bodyguard

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who says he worked as a bodyguard for Lindsay Lohan has sued the actress and her company, claiming he is owed more than \$55,000 in unpaid wages.

David Kim filed a lawsuit Monday in Superior Court against Lohan, her Crossheart Productions and 50 unnamed defendants alleging the star employed him for 19 weeks then refused to pay him.

Calls to Lohan's publicist Leslie Sloane-Zelnik were not immediately returned. A representative for Lohan told People.com that the person had no connection to Lohan.

In court papers, Kim claimed breach of oral contract and violation of four California labor codes, in addition to fraud and infliction of emotional distress. The lawsuit claimed Kim was hired from October 2006 until March 2007 by Lohan, 21, and her agents or employees based on "various oral representations and text messages."



Lindsay Lohan poses as she arrives at the 2007/8 Chanel Cruise Show presented by Karl Lagerfeld, in this May 18, 2007, file photo in Santa Monica, Calif. AP

Parker breaks off engagement, AP told

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mary-Louise Parker has broken off her engagement to fellow "Weeds" actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan. Parker, who plays an upscale suburban marijuana dealer on the Showtime comedy, ended the relationship with her actor fiance, according to a person close to the former couple.

The person, who requested anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the relationship, said the couple had differing lifestyles, but that Parker holds Morgan in the highest regard and hopes they remain friends.

Morgan, best known for his recurring role as Denny on "Grey's Anatomy" and the deceased husband of Parker's character on "Weeds," began dating Parker in 2006. The pair briefly split last June but later reconciled. Parker, 43, and Morgan, 41, announced their engagement earlier this year.

Clooney talks with Brown about Darfur

LONDON (AP)—George Clooney took a break from promoting his latest film Tuesday to meet with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, as he continued pressing governments to speak out about China's foreign policy in Sudan.

The two met as the Olympic torch arrived in San Francisco for the only North American stop in the Beijing Olympic torch relay, which has been dogged by human rights protesters in London, Paris and Istanbul.

The protests have been fueled by anger over China's human rights record, its grip on Tibet and China's support for Sudan despite years of bloodshed in the country's western Darfur region.

"I think the protests are good. They've been warned for a while that there was going to be some protests," Clooney told reporters on the red carpet for the British premiere of his new film, "Leatherheads."

Brown praised the 46-year-old actor's role in drawing attention to violence in Darfur.

Only 9,200 troops and police of the 26,000 authorized are on the ground in Darfur, where violent conflict since 2003 has displaced some 4.27 million civilians and left more than 200,000 people dead.

Brown agreed the deployment was moving too slowly, and that humanitarian aid efforts were being hampered by poor access for aid workers.

"The situation in Darfur is unacceptable," Brown said after a meeting with Clooney, announced only after it took place.

"The rebels and government continue to openly flout UNSC (United Nations Security Coun-



This is an image released by Downing Street on Tuesday April 8, 2008 showing Hollywood star George Clooney, right, meeting British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, inside 10 Downing Street in London on Tuesday April 8, 2008.

cil) resolutions through attacks on civilians," Brown said in a statement.

Brown praised Clooney's role "in drawing attention to this crisis—this is a humanitarian tragedy of colossal proportions and the world must take note and act."

Clooney—who has been named a U.N. peace envoy—has publicly spoken several times about the crisis in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and about 2.5 million people displaced in three years of fighting between African rebels and government troops allied with Arab militia known as janjaweed.

China is a major trading part-

ner with Sudan, and Beijing has resisted United Nations attempts to force Sudan to accept U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur.

Brown said Britain was working with the international community and others to pressure all sides in the conflict to agree to a cease fire, start peace talks and allow peacekeepers to deploy.

Fighting in Darfur began in 2003 when ethnic African tribesmen took up arms, complaining of decades of discrimination by Sudan's Arab-dominated government. The government is accused of unleashing militia forces to commit atrocities against ethnic African communities in the fight with rebel groups.

Toni Braxton hospitalized for chest pain

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Toni Braxton canceled her Las Vegas show after being hospitalized overnight with chest pains, hotel officials said. The 40-year-old Grammy winner spent Monday night at a Las Vegas hospital and was expected to be released after precautionary tests, Flamingo Las Vegas hotel-casino and Harrah's Entertainment Inc. spokeswoman Deanna Pettit said.

The cause of the chest pain

was not immediately known. But Pettit said Braxton, a six-time Grammy winner for songs including "Un-break My Heart" and "Breathe Again," has been treated in the past for pericarditis, a viral inflammation of the heart.

"We wish Toni a quick recovery and would like her to take the time she needs to regain optimal health," said Don Marandino, Flamingo president.

"We are looking forward to her

return at the end of the week."

The hotel was offering refunds to the canceled Tuesday show. Pettit said no immediate decision was made whether Braxton's Wednesday show would be canceled.

Braxton's act, "Toni Braxton: Revealed," also has shows scheduled Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the vintage 720-seat Flamingo Showroom. Her two-year run at the Flamingo began in August 2006.

head judge Len Goodman said.

Judges scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

Carolla said he "had the time of my life" during his four weeks on the show.

"I recommend this experience to anyone who's scared of everything," he said. "You at home, there's something that scares you. There's something that's your 'Dancing With the Stars.' Embrace it. Don't run from it."

Looking at his partner, Carolla said, "I lost 25 pounds of fat and I gained 105 pounds of angel."

Tuesday's show also featured a mini-competition between two 8-year-old ballroom-dance couples and a live performance by Sheryl Crow, who performed her breakthrough hit, "All I Wanna Do," and her latest single, "Out of Our Heads."

The remaining competitors include pro football player Jason Taylor, Olympic skater Kristi Yamaguchi, R&B singer Mario, and actors Shannon Elizabeth, Christian de la Fuente, Marlee Matlin, Priscilla Presley and Marissa Jaret Winokur. Steve Guttenberg, Monica Seles and Penn Jillette have already been eliminated.

Feeding pâté to cats puts partner in the doghouse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

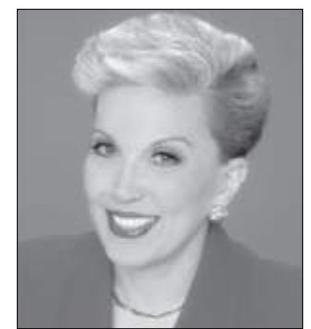
DEAR ABBY: My domestic partner and I have been together 12 years. I love him dearly. He is sweet, funny, witty, kind, and most important, willing to live with me. I can't imagine life without him.

The problem is, he has no common sense. He doesn't "get" that dishes we cook and eat with should not be used for feeding the cats. If the toilet runs over (we have old plumbing), my best bath towels should not be used to clean up the mess when there's a mop in the closet. If we're out of cat food, he should go to the supermarket and buy some, not open the can of goose liver pâté we brought back from Paris. That sort of thing.

The immediate cause of my annoyance is if you have two credit cards, one with a 7 percent interest rate, the other with a 21 percent interest rate, you don't put a \$2,000 purchase on the card with the higher interest rate.

My partner is 42, but sometimes I feel like I'm the parent of a 4-year-old. If I say anything, he accuses me of being a "control freak." I don't consider myself one, but I just don't want my favorite punch bowl used as a bucket. Any ideas before I shoot the both of us?

—READY TO SCREAM, GROVELAND, FLA.



Dear Abby

DEAR READY TO SCREAM: Until they start cloning couples, there will always be one more responsible person in a relationship. Because your partnership has lasted as long as it has, I'm sure he has his strengths, too, that are different from yours.

Because you already know the state of your plumbing, stash a supply of rags or old, faded towels in your linen closet and show them to him, so that when another emergency occurs, he will be able to locate them quickly. Transfer your fine china and crystal to a cabinet that's less convenient to reach—perhaps even one with a lock—so it won't be so available when the livestock gets hungry.

And warn your partner in advance that certain items—like pâté—are only for special occasions. Also, consider transferring your balance from the high-interest credit card, or keeping it in a safety deposit box.

If all that fails, remind yourself what it was like back on the dating circuit. If that doesn't make you count his virtues, nothing will.

...

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, "Bob," who has a strange sense of humor. A lot of people don't find him funny, and this time I'm afraid he's gone too far.

His most recent prank was to fake his own death. Bob even went so far as to submit a fake obituary. The problem is we have mutual friends in other states who are convinced he is dead and are pretty shaken up about it.

I want to tell everyone the truth, but I know Bob will see it as a betrayal. I don't want to hurt our relationship, but I hate to see our friends in pain. What should I do?

—DILEMMA IN DALLAS

DEAR DILEMMA: Your "friend" has a cruel and twisted sense of humor, and if you are wise, you'll distance yourself from him. Not only has he hurt people who care about him, but if he has done this to avoid paying taxes or other financial obligations, it is fraud.

Since you asked, you should inform anyone who inquires that Bob is still very much among them—and advise them to give him a call when you know he'll be picking up.

P.S. If someone did that to me, I'd pretend he WAS dead.

■ ■ ■

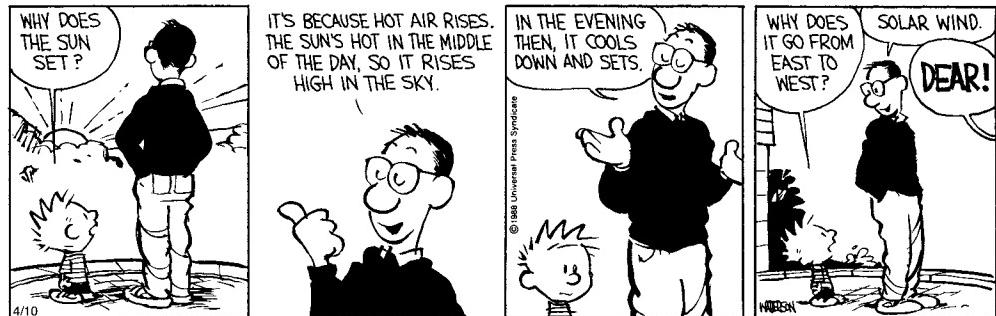
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



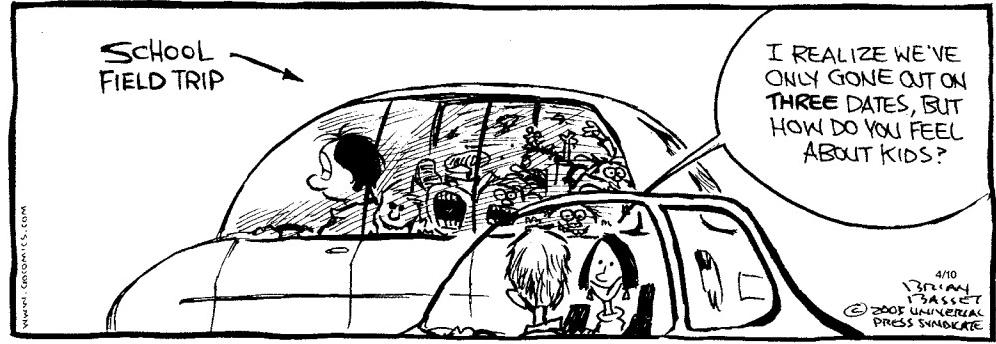
By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



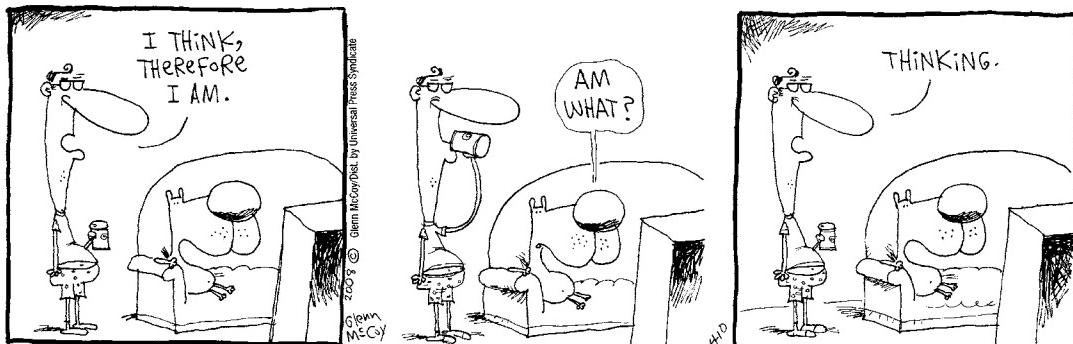
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

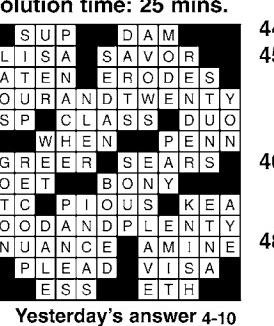


By Glenn McCoy

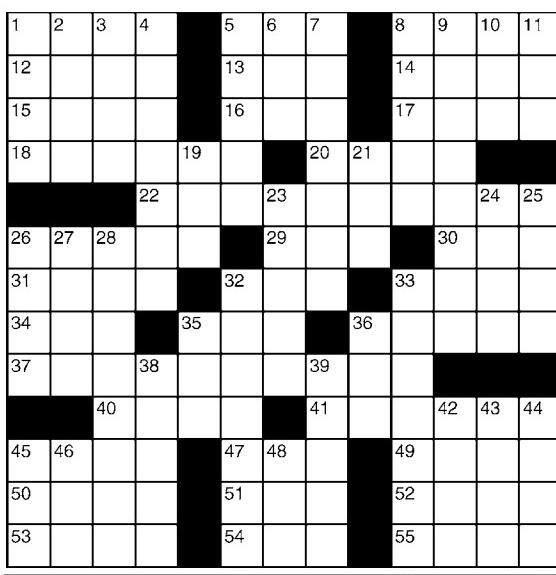
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Communi-	2	Arizona	24	Present
1	Counterfeite	nition device	3	Enthusiastic	25	Agrees silently
5	Center	40 Opposite of sans	4	Mutt	26	Finished
8	Acrimony	41 "... fear is fear —"	5	Found out	27	Turkish money
12	Takeout request	45 Horse play?	6	Website address	28	Labyrinth builder
13	Historic time	47 Pussy-cat's partner	32	Redenbacher wares		
14	"So be it"	49 Verifiable	33	Orchestra leader		
15	Fairy-tale preposition	50 Decant	35	Montana or Namath		
16	The whole shootin' match	51 Caviar base	36	Stick with a kick		
17	Exceeded 75	52 Anger	38	Tusk material		
18	Greater	53 Bouquet	39	De-squeaked		
20	Den	54 Actor Beatty	40	Appomattox VIP	42	"go bragh!"
22	Bull distracter	55 Responsibility	41	Tackle's teammate	43	Hum-dinger
26	Ancient	DOWN	19	A billion years	44	Retainers
29	Buck's mate	1 Movie-goer's receipt	21	Expert	45	Very quietly,
30	Expert	23 Archie's Mrs.	22	Archie's	to 33-Down	
31	Test tube	Solution time: 25 mins.	24	De-squeaked	46	Tic-tac-toe win
32	Wrestling victory		25	Reason to say "alas"	48	
33	Anthropologist Margaret					
34	Before					
35	Write in the margins					
36	Rainout covers					



Yesterday's answer 4-10



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features Service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Halle Berry, 20; Mandy Moore, 24; Ryan Merriman, 25; Steven Seagal, 57

Happy Birthday: Get on top of your game before someone pushes you aside. You cannot give in to pressure. Focus on what needs to be done. Your demise will be taking on other people's duties. Be smart and offer advice but, when it comes to hands-on assistance, please help yourself this year and be the one who prospers. Your numbers are 5, 23, 26, 39, 41, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You've done plenty for others in the past and now it's your turn to call in favors. Don't feel you have to go it alone. Love is looking very positive as long as you are affectionate and refrain from complaining about things that don't really matter. ☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A work or educational trip will pay off in terms of what you learn and who you meet. Don't let someone's pessimism stop you from following your dreams. Act on what you know is right and you won't be disappointed. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An offer you can't refuse is coming down the pipeline. Don't take too much time deciding what you are going to do. Adaptability will impress the people who are keeping close tabs on what you do. Performance is everything. ☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep busy accomplishing what you can. You will be too emotional to deal with anything or anyone who pushes you. Someone

older or with more experience will be able to shed some light on a situation you face with a peer or colleague. ☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can learn something new from someone with a totally different background or way of doing things. A money deal can work to your advantage if you are creative in the way you set things up. ☀☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be tempted to overspend to impress someone you just met. Don't use your own cash to solve other people's problems. The advice you give should be sufficient enough. Haste will make waste. ☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be determined to take on too much or make promises that you won't be able to keep. What you should be doing is enjoying a little romance, pampering or indulging. Bottom line: You should be enjoying the moment. ☀☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take charge but don't do so with force. You have to take on the brunt of the work yourself and prove to everyone that you are capable of handling whatever comes your way. A few changes at home will allow you greater flexibility. ☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Secure your personal and professional position. Don't take chances or take anything or anyone for granted. This is not the time to leave it up to others to make decisions for you. A change in a relationship will take place. ☀☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be pushed different directions and, if you give in for the wrong reason or to avoid disappointing someone, you may make a grave error. Try not to let anyone influence your decisions. ☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll accomplish the most at home. If there is something you want to discuss with someone, now is the time. A change in residence will be financially beneficial. Someone from your past will make an impact on your future. ☀☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You won't please everyone today, especially those closest to you. Be prepared to fight your case with passion. A change in a personal relationship will set the stage for what's to come. ☀☀

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive, strong-willed, aggressive and relentless. You aren't afraid to take a chance. You are motivated by desire and passion.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			5					
6			8				5	
3	1		6	4				
		6	2	1				
		6	2	1				
9	5	8	3					
3	7	4						
4	7		1	6				
5			9	1				

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	9	4	7	1	3	6	2
4	2	7	3	8	6	1	5	9
3	1	6	9	5	2	7	8	4
1	9	5	7	2	3	8	4	6
7	8	4	6	1	9	2	3	5
6	3	2	5	4	8	9	1	7
5	4	8	1	9	7	6	2	3
2	7	3	8	6	4	5	9	1
9	6	1	2	3	5	4	7	8

Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Solution: 8 letters

S	U	B	M	I	S	S	I	N	S	T	A	R	S
T	C	A	I	D	E	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N
H	O	R	S	N	K	R	S	R	E	N	N	I	W
G	M	E	E	S	O	T	T	K	S	D	R	A	W
I	P	T	I	E	I	I	C	A	E	V	E	N	T
R	E	R	T	H	N	I	T	P	E	R	P	N	I
W	T	O	R	A	T	W	E	I	E	H	O	A	A
Y	I	S	A	T	R	N	R	E	B	I	T	S	S
A	T	P	P	U	D	T	T	I	S	I	M	C	S
L	I	E	K	M	N	E	S	T	A	H	H	E	A
P	O	C	N	U	U	D	E	④	R	E	O	X	S
R	N	T	S	L	I	R	Ⓐ	G	D	R	R	N	E
I	C	I	O	U	P	Ⓛ	O	U	T	U	A	S	V
Z	C	V	G	X	Ⓐ	R	L	S	I	F	B	T	I
E	Y	E	X	P	E	R	I	M	E	N	T	L	C

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Yesterday's Answer: Agreement
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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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B
L
C
E

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Saipan Tribune

Parker leads Lady Vols to another title



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—That injured left shoulder wasn't enough to stop Candace Parker from hoisting that championship trophy one last time.

Parker scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds to help Tennessee capture its eighth championship with a 64-48 victory over Stanford on Tuesday night. The Lady Vols also became the first repeat champs since Connecticut won three straight from 2002-04.

"It's been an emotional last three days, obviously, just rehabbing my shoulder," Parker said, "but it was all worth it to win an eighth national championship."

The Associated Press player of the year will leave the Lady Vols (36-2) with a year of eligibility remaining, but has accomplished one of her goals by winning multiple national titles.

"You know, it's funny because some players don't get one, and I'm fortunate enough to have two," Parker said with both hands raised and two fingers up on each. "It's that simple. It's that simple."

Parker also became the fourth player to win back-to-back Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four honors. She joined Connecticut's Diana Taurasi (2003-04), Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw (1997-98), and Southern Cal's Cheryl Miller (1983-84).

Stanford's loss ended Candice Wiggins' remarkable run through the NCAA tournament. She scored 14 points and finished with 151 over the six games—the fourth-best total in tournament history. Sheryl Swoopes holds the record with 177 points, when she led Texas Tech to the championship in 1993. Wiggins is the first player to have two 40-point games in the tournament.

Wiggins ended her stellar career



championship game—not letting her injured shoulder bother her. For the second straight game, the All-American wore a long-sleeve shirt under her uniform to try, as she said, to not focus on the injury.

While still clearly not 100 percent healthy, the expected No. 1 pick in Wednesday's WNBA draft didn't shoot nearly as many jumpers as Sunday night, instead taking the ball to the basket on an array of moves. She converted one steal in the second half into a pretty layup that gave the Lady Vols a 10-point advantage. She then followed it up with a three-point play on a driving layup. The Cardinal, who had a season low for points, would get no closer than eight the rest of the way.

With the game in hand and a minute left, Parker went to the Tennessee bench for the final time, holding up four fingers on each hand to signify the eight titles the Lady Vols have won.

"No. 8, it's all about this team," Tennessee coach Pat Summitt said. "I've been very blessed with this team, these people I have around me."

Unlike earlier games in the tournament when Parker had to

carry the Lady Vols, her supporting cast came through. Shannon Bobbitt scored 13 points and Nicky Anosike added 12 points, eight rebounds and six steals for the Lady Vols.

"They came out with a great mentality to play hard, especially on the defensive end," Summitt said. "On offense, we got more people involved, but it was our defense that got it done. I'm so proud of our seniors, I'm going to miss them."

Bill Self wants 'security' from Kansas



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Kansas coach Bill Self slept for less than an hour after the Jayhawks stunned

Memphis in one of the more memorable finals in NCAA tournament history, wrapping up their first national title in 20 years.

The details of the Jayhawks' 75-68 overtime victory will soon be etched in Kansas lore. After Memphis missed a series of free throws, Kansas guard Mario Chalmers hit a 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left to send the game to overtime, where the Jayhawks overwhelmed the Tigers.

Now Kansas fans may begin losing sleep over whether their coach is headed for Oklahoma State. Less than 12 hours after cutting down the nets, a bleary-eyed Self returned to the Alamodome on Tuesday morning and faced questions about whether he's interested in the job at his alma mater, which parted ways with Sean Sutton on April 1.

As he has for a week, Self said he plans to meet with Kansas officials soon about a contract extension.

"What I'd like to have is like everybody'd like to have," Self said. "I'd like to have some security. I

don't know what even Kansas would remotely be talking (about). We haven't even talked about that. When I say security, I mean years, so hopefully that'll happen."

Citing factors such as Kansas' rich hoops tradition, Self said, "I'm not looking for more than what Kansas provides on a daily basis."

The school gave Self a five-year contract extension last season, increasing his annual compensation to more than \$1.3 million with a chance to make another \$350,000 each year if he meets incentives.

But Self could likely command far more money from Oklahoma State, whose billionaire alumnus Boone Pickens, gave \$165 million to the school's athletic department.

Self said he hasn't met Pickens and wasn't familiar with details about Oklahoma State's program. But he drew a chuckle from reporters when he said, "From the outside looking in, it appears that they have great resources."

Kansas fans have become accustomed to a certain amount of anxiety over losing a talented coach. Roy Williams flirted with, and eventually left for, his alma mater, North Carolina.

Kansas followers exulted when their team defeated Williams and the Tar

Heels in the national semifinals, but Williams turned up at the final wearing a Jayhawks sticker on his shirt.

Self awoke Tuesday morning to a congratulatory call from President Bush, who invited the Jayhawks to visit the White House.

"He said something that was pretty cool," Self said. "He said, 'You need to get here soon because you've got great seniors. If you don't get out here soon, then they won't get a chance to come because they'll all split and go different ways.'"

The veteran-laden Jayhawks likely will lose junior Brandon Rush, who declared himself eligible for the NBA draft last year but returned to campus after injuring his knee.

"I would anticipate losing five great seniors and possibly a couple more," Self said.

Player turnover is common in college basketball. The bigger question is whether Self will be back.

He said he hadn't heard from the Cowboys but would talk to them if they call.

"I would answer the phone," Self said. "Good gosh, I know all those people. I'm not going to lie and say I'm not going to answer the phone. But I certainly wouldn't answer the phone un-

less everybody at Kansas knew exactly what was going on."

Self said he's "positively not interested" in the Oklahoma State job but added that he wants to sit down with Kansas administrators. "I'm sure we'll meet and iron some things out," he said.

Asked what he considers important when he evaluates a job, Self replied, "I've got the best job. I have tradition and history and I love the people I work with. It's a great place to recruit to and my family's happy. I've got the best job, so I'm not evaluating anything else. I'm really not."

Ten days ago, Self had been considered one of the finer coaches who hadn't reached the Final Four. Then one desperation 3-pointer missed and another swished.

In the regional final, Davidson missed the potential winning shot from beyond the arc, stamping the Jayhawks' ticket to San Antonio.

On Monday night, Chalmers' shot fell and Self soon had a national title on his resume. Still, he said he didn't think of himself as a different coach.

"I don't think just because a guy makes a guarded shot with 2.1 seconds left makes me any different than if he hadn't made the shot," Self said.

Bobbitt scored all of her points in the first half as the Lady Vols jumped out to a 37-29 advantage. Trailing by one early, Tennessee used a 13-4 run to take a 17-9 lead midway through the half. Bobbitt hit two 3-pointers and made a nifty layup to cap the spurt. The teams traded baskets before two free throws by Bobbitt gave the Lady Vols a 35-25 lead - their biggest of the half.

She also harassed Stanford into 14 turnovers by the break. The Cardinal looked tight on offense, committing more turnovers in the first half than they did in the semifinal win over UConn. They finished with 25 for the game.

"We did not play well. We did not handle the pressure well," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "The turnovers absolutely killed us."

Wiggins and Jayne Appel provided the only offense for Stanford, combining for 17 of their 29 first-half points.

Appel finished with 16 points to lead the Cardinal, whose 23-game winning streak—the longest in the nation—ended. The Pac-10 champs hadn't lost since dropping consecutive road games to UCLA and USC in the first week of January.

The Lady Vols advanced to the championship game by beating LSU 47-46 on Sunday night on Alexis Hornbuckle's putback with seven-tenths of a second remaining. The Cardinal shocked UConn 82-73 in the other semifinal. The victory redeemed the Lady Vols' 73-69 overtime loss to the Cardinal when the teams met Dec. 22 at Stanford.

Tennessee is 8-5 in championship games after barely making it to No. 13. The Lady Vols ended a nine-year drought with their championship last season. They won their other titles in 1987, '89, '91, '96, '97, and '98.

Venus Williams takes indefinite hiatus



AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. (AP)—Six-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams will be sidelined indefinitely, though she did not say why she will be out of action.

"I've just been having some issues that I need to resolve, so I'm working on that at the moment and I'm hoping to be back playing as soon as possible," Williams said Tuesday at the Bausch & Lomb Championships. "I'm not going to get any further into it, but of course I love the sport."

Williams said last week she was dealing with a medical issue when she announced her withdrawal from the Bausch & Lomb tournament. She played last week in the Sony Ericsson Open, losing to Svetlana Kuznetsova in the quarterfinals.

Williams will not play for the United States in the Fed Cup semi-final against Russia on April 26-27, but did not rule out any other tournaments and said she still wants to play in the French Open beginning in late May.

"Of course I want to be there (in France)," Williams said. "I don't want to be at home watching on TV. Watching this week will be enough on TV, so hopefully not too many more weeks."

Matzuzaka leads five-hitter, Red Sox keep Tigers winless 5-0



BOSTON (AP) — Daisuke Matsuzaka allowed four hits in 6 2-3 innings and the Boston Red Sox returned from their three-country trip to beat the winless Detroit Tigers 5-0 on Tuesday.

Matsuzaka (2-0) began the home portion of his second season in Boston with seven strikeouts and four walks. Manny Delcarmen and Hideki Okajima completed a five-hitter.

The Tigers are batting just .235 and have scored 15 runs this year, ahead of only Colorado (12) entering Major League Baseball play Tuesday night.

Orioles 8, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Scott Moore and Luke Scott hit early home runs and Baltimore ruined Texas' home opener.

The Orioles (6-1) have the American League's best record and a six-game winning streak, already matching their longest of last season.

Moore led off the second with a homer, and Scott followed an inning later with a two-run shot that made it 4-0 off Jason Jennings (0-2). Aubrey Huff matched a career high with four hits, and drove in four runs.

Royals 5, Yankees 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Rodriguez struck out four times in a game for only the fourth time in his major league career, and Kansas City won its home opener.

With captain Derek Jeter sidelined for the three-game series by a strained left quadriceps, the Yankees wasted a 2-1 second-inning lead against a team it took nine of 10 from last season. New York struck out 11 times in all, three by Jeter's replacement at shortstop, Wilson Betemit.

Mariners 6, Rays 5

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Erik Bedard struggled through six innings but got enough support from the Seattle's sputtering offense to ruin Tampa Bay's home opener.

Bedard (1-0) allowed five runs and five hits while improving to 11-3 in 19 career starts against Tampa Bay. The other 10 victories came while he was with the Orioles, who dealt him to Seattle just before the start of spring training.

Athletics 9, Blue Jays 8

At Toronto, Ryan Sweeney hit a tiebreaking triple in the ninth inning, and Oakland ended Toronto's three-game winning streak.

Kurt Suzuki singled up the middle off right-hander Jeremy Accardo (0-1) with two outs in the ninth. Sweeney then hit a triple to right. He finished 2-for-5 with two RBIs.

Indians 4, Angels 3

At Anaheim, California, Travis Hafner hit a two-run homer off emergency closer Justin Speier with two outs in the ninth inning, and Jake Westbrook (1-1) earned his first complete game



Boston Red Sox starter Daisuke Matsuzaka delivers to Detroit Tigers Gary Sheffield during the first inning of the Red Sox' home Opening Day baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday April 8, 2008.

Phillies 5, Mets 2

At New York, Jamie Moyer allowed two runs and four hits in six innings, Jayson Werth hit a tiebreaking single and the Philadelphia Phillies rallied past the New York Mets.

Philadelphia, which took advantage of the Mets' epic collapse last September to win the NL East division title, has won nine in a row against New York.

Chase Utley tied a major league

record by getting hit by a pitch three times for the Phillies.

Brewers 3, Reds 2, 10 innings

At Milwaukee, Rickie Weeks singled home the winning run in the 10th inning and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati after Gagne blew his second save in three chances.

Corey Patterson hit a homer just over right fielder Corey Hart's leap to tie the game in the ninth.

Eric Gagne, who signed a one-year, \$10 million (€6.4 million) contract this offseason to close for the Brewers after Francisco Cordero cashed in with a \$46 million contract with the Reds, also blew a save on opening day against the Cubs on Wednesday.

Rockies 4, Braves 3

At Denver, Ubaldo Jimenez overcame a shaky start and Matt Holliday hit two run-scoring singles in Colorado's second-straight one-run win over Atlanta.

Each of the Braves' five losses so far have come by one run. The Rockies have won three games so far, each by a run as well.

The Rockies still haven't busted out of their offensive funk, but they finally topped the three-run mark in a game. Coming in, they had scored just 12 times in their first seven games, the lowest run production in the majors and half the number of runs that they had scored in their previous worst start, in 2002.

Arizona's Mark Reynolds hit a three-run homer off Chad Billingsley in the first inning, his fourth home run in three games.

Diamondbacks 10, Dodgers 5

At Phoenix, Doug Davis, pitching two days before his scheduled surgery for thyroid cancer, allowed two runs in six innings, and Arizona trounced Los Angeles for its fifth straight win.

Davis (1-1) blanked the Dodgers through five innings before Jeff Kent doubled in two runs in the sixth. A .070 career hitter, Davis even singled twice, one them bringing in a run for his seventh RBI. He also picked off a runner at first.

Arizona's Mark Reynolds hit a three-run homer off Chad Billingsley in the first inning, his fourth home run in three games.

Giants 3, Padres 2, 11 innings

At San Francisco, Bengie Molina hit his second homer of the game with one out in the 11th inning off Cla Meredith (0-1), and San Francisco edged San Diego to snap a four-game skid.

Brad Hennessey (1-0) threw two shutout innings for the win.

Brian Giles had four hits and drove in the tying run with a sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth for the Padres.

Suns 127, Grizzlies 113

At Memphis, Tennessee, Amare Stoudemire had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Phoenix beat Memphis despite playing without Shaquille O'Neal, who had a right hip contusion.

Stoudemire shot 10-of-13 from the field as the Suns won their eighth straight over the Grizzlies and moved a half-game behind the idle Houston Rockets for the fifth spot in the Western Conference playoffs.

Rudy Gay matched his career high with 36 points for Memphis.

Bobcats 121, Timberwolves 119

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson scored 36 points and Charlotte avoided a collapse against one of the league's worst teams to hold off Minnesota.

Al Jefferson, who matched a career high with 40 points, missed an open 19-foot jumper at the buzzer.

Matt Carroll added 22 points while filling in for the injured Gerald Wallace and hit a free throw with 1 second left for Charlotte.

Heat 95, Bulls 88

At Miami, Kasib Powell scored a career-high 18 points in his first game back from the NBA Development League, and Miami beat Chicago to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Ricky Davis and Chris Quinn each added 16 points as five players scored in double figures for the Heat, the day after coach Pat Riley was elected to the Hall of Fame.

Luol Deng scored 19 of his 25 points in the first half for the Bulls. Ben Gordon and Joakim Noah each added 16 points.

Okur's 22 points, 17 rebounds, lead Jazz over Hornets



NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Mehmet Okur had 22 points and 17 rebounds to help the Utah Jazz clinch the Northwest Division and snap the New Orleans Hornets' 11-game home winning streak, 77-66 on Tuesday night.

Deron Williams had 16 assists and outplayed Chris Paul as the Jazz took a 20-point lead early in the fourth quarter and cruised from there, holding New Orleans to its lowest point total of the season.

Peja Stojakovic scored 15 points for New Orleans, which shot a woeful 3-of-14 on 3-pointers and 37 percent overall as its five-game winning streak came to an end. David West had 14 points.

Paul had a rare off night, finishing with nine assists and only four points on 2-of-11 shooting.

Nuggets 117, Clippers 99

At Los Angeles, Carmelo Anthony scored 36 points, Allen Iverson added 21 points, seven rebounds and nine assists, and Denver routed Los Angeles to keep pace in the Western Conference playoff race.

Linus Kleiza added 15 points, Marcus Camby had 13 points and 18 rebounds, and J.R. Smith scored 10 points for the Nuggets (47-31).

Warriors 140, Kings 132

At Oakland, California, Baron

Davis had 33 points and nine assists, Stephen Jackson added 20 points, and Golden State stayed in the frantic Western Conference playoff race with its highest-scoring game of the season.

Andris Biedrins had 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Warriors (47-31), who are tied with the Denver Nuggets for the eighth postseason spot in the power-packed West, where one club is certain to end up with the best record in NBA history for a non-playoff team.

Al Harrington scored 17 points and Monta Ellis had 16 as Golden State never trailed in its third win in four games against its Northern California rivals.

Pacers 112, Hawks 98 At Indianapolis, Mike Dunleavy scored 28 points, and Indiana beat Atlanta to avoid elimination from the Eastern Conference playoff race.

A win by the Hawks would have knocked the Pacers from playoff contention, and Atlanta would have needed just one win or a New Jersey loss the rest of the way to clinch a berth. Instead, the Pacers are just two games behind the Hawks for the eighth spot with four games left. The Pacers also claimed the tiebreaker against the Hawks by winning two of the three matchups this season.

Flip Murray had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Danny Granger scored 16 points and Marquis Daniels added 15 for Indiana.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 30 points. Josh Smith had 25 points and 13 rebounds, and Josh Childress added 16 points and 12 rebounds for Atlanta.

Trail Blazers 112, Lakers 103

At Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored 23 points and matched his career high with 12 assists, and Portland held off Los Angeles.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and 11 rebounds for Portland, which snapped a five-game losing streak. Channing Frye had a season-high 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Kobe Bryant finished with 34 points, while Pau Gasol had 21 points and 13 rebounds. It was the Lakers' sixth straight loss at the Rose Garden.

Celtics 107, Bucks 104, OT

At Milwaukee, the Big Three were back to build a big lead, but the reserves coughed it up and forced Boston to use overtime to beat Milwaukee for its seventh straight victory.

After sitting out the Celtics' victory at Charlotte on Saturday, stars Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce lobbied coach Doc Rivers to play Tuesday night. Rivers originally wanted to get them another night of rest but relented.

Garnett scored 21 points, Allen had 11 and Pierce, who returned to the team after the birth of his daughter, had 14.

Knicks 98, Pistons 94

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Wil-

son Chandler scored all of his 19 points in the first half, and New York built a huge lead and beat Detroit.

Brandon Bass scored 13 off the bench for the Mavericks, and Dirk Nowitzki chipped in with 11 points and 12 rebounds in his fourth game since returning from knee and ankle injuries.

Earl Watson had 22 points and eight assists for Seattle. Kevin Durant added 16 points, and Jeff Green and Nick Collison each had 11.

Mavericks 99, SuperSonics 83

At Dallas, Jason Terry scored 22 points, Josh Howard added 17, and Dallas crept closer to a play-off berth while sending Seattle to its club-record 60th loss.

Brandan Bass scored 13 off the bench for the Mavericks, and Dirk Nowitzki chipped in with 11 points and 12 rebounds in his fourth game since returning from knee and ankle injuries.

Earl Watson had 22 points and eight assists for Seattle. Kevin Durant added 16 points, and Jeff Green and Nick Collison each had 11.

Heat 95, Bulls 88

At Miami, Kasib Powell scored a career-high 18 points in his first game back from the NBA Development League, and Miami beat Chicago to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Ricky Davis and Chris Quinn each added 16 points as five players scored in double figures for the Heat, the day after coach Pat Riley was elected to the Hall of Fame.

Women's Nationals continue Marianas Cup preparations



Members of the CNMI Women's National Team go over some drills in one of their practice sessions at the CPA Field. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association
Coach Nick Swain and the CNMI Women's National Team continue their ongoing preparations

for the 2nd Marianas Cup as they have scheduled at least 14 more practice sessions before meeting Guam on April 26.

Swain has been conducting shooting and conditioning practices with the team from Wednesday to Monday with Tuesdays an off day. The team regularly practices at 4:30pm

at the CPA Field but they also use the fields at the Oleai Sports Complex and at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

They will then have a team pasta dinner on April 24, Thursday, with the venue and time to be announced at a latter date before the big game.

Rima Halaby, Natalie Hill,

Katie Peters, Patty Coleman, Madison Smith, Zoe Jewell, Brenda Schultz, Connie Camacho, Elisa Fejoran, Ashley Hofsneider, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, Lindsay Davis, Emily Gries, Becca Newman, Amanda Allen, Jenny Linden, Francine Sablan, Nikki Gabaldon, and Maryana Gramlich are the mem-

Spring beach volleyball opens today at PIC

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 9th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Miller Lite Spring Co-ed 4-Person Beach Volleyball League opens its season today at the PIC beach side.

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Laurie Peterka is inviting everyone to join them for the

opening banquet.

The opening banquet begins at 6pm and players need to be at PIC at 7pm to be included in the four-man roster for each team. The league follows a random draw format.

Peterka said players don't need to organize their own teams since they will do the random drawing for the members of each squad where they would divide all players evenly.

Previous experience in playing beach volleyball is also not

necessary. "Just come out, learn, share, and dig in for another great season," said Peterka.

Registration fee is \$20 for NMIVA while non-members will be charged \$25. Games will be played twice a week, every Tuesdays and Thursdays. The league is expected to end by the first week of June.

Teams must have four players inside the court during each game with one female member.

Last year, top seed Limarh

completed its amazing one-loss season when they scored a 15-7 win over the Sand Smackers to win the title. They finished with a 10-1 card tallying 346 points while limiting their opponents to 225 and winning 27 sets in the three-month long tournament.

For more information, call PIC entertainment manager John Waechter at PIC at 234-7976 ext. 5147 from Mondays to Fridays from 8am to 5pm or email him at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com.

world junior rankings. "There is this player that is ranked 33rd [in the world] and he has played in some junior grand slams."

Heo is expected back on Saipan on April 21.

HEO
From Page 28

qualifying event," said Heo, who added that though both tournaments are played in

hard courts, the courts in Korea is a lot different from the courts on Saipan.

Heo said most of the players seeing action are Koreans but the two tournaments also attracted top junior netters from

Russia, China, Taiwan, and Japan. "I don't know any players at all but I made new friends."

He added that he expects the Lee Duk Hee tournament to be tougher since there are players ranked in the Top 100 in the

world junior rankings. "There is this player that is ranked 33rd [in the world] and he has played in some junior grand slams."

Heo is expected back on Saipan on April 21.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

doubled against Brel but Joseph Taitano struck out swinging for the first out. Muna got caught in a rundown as he tried to steal third base.

2008
From Page 28

Annual Mahi Fishing Derby, please contact Mr. Frank Tudela at MVA at (670) 664-3200/01 or via e-mail at ftudela@mymari-

Jesse Santos walked and moved to second on a single by Isaac Ada, who was forced out at third on a 5-6 putout play for the third out to end the game.

Leadoff batter Lancaster Sec-harmidal went 2-for-3 with two runs, a double, and an RBI while Dave Matagolai went 2-for-3

anas.com.

Last year, the crew of the *San Juan II* reeled in the biggest fish of the 3rd Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby.

The boat, captained by Lolito Donaire with angler Errol Moises, caught a 24.75-lb. monster

mahi to collect the \$1,500 cash purse.

The *St. Patrick* had the second biggest fish of the derby, as captain Tony Maestro and angler Manding Legaspi unloaded a 24.35-lb. mah-mahi at the Smiling Cove Marina. Maestro and

Legaspi collected \$1,000 for all their troubles.

Third place went to the crew of *Another Girl* who reeled in a 22.9-pounder for the \$500 third place purse. The boat was captained by Sheldon Fernandez and its angler was Ben Tabin.

bers of the 19-member team.

After the CNMI-Guam women's match on April 26, Saturday, the CNMI Men's National Team will also compete against Guam the following day.

The CNMI will play host to both Guam squads in back-to-back matches that are expected to be highly competitive and exciting.

Tryouts for the CNMI Nationals began in November last year and the final roster was announced after 17 days.

After a few days break for Christmas and New Year, Swain began with a month-and-a-half long conditioning program designed to increase their agility,

stamina, and endurance.

Aside from their regular training, the Women's Nationals also play against other local teams as part of their preparation for the Marianas Cup.

Aside from youth players they also have some permanent residents included in the squad, which will serve as the backbone of the women's program for years to come. Swain has set a long-term vision for the national team.

This time the Women's Nationals have a longer time to prepare for the Marianas Cup compared to last year when they only had six weeks to form the team.

Tribune Sports Scores

NBA STANDINGS

Tampa Bay	3	4	.429	3
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EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	62	15	.805	—
x-Philadelphia	39	38	.506	23
x-Toronto	38	39	.494	24
New Jersey	32	45	.416	30
New York	22	56	.282	40 1/2

Southeast Division

y-Orlando	48	29	.623	—
x-Washington	40	37	.519	8
Atlanta	36	42	.462	12 1/2
Charlotte	30	48	.385	18 1/2
Miami	14	64	.179	34 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	5	4	.556	—
Oakland	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Texas	3	4	.429	1
Seattle	3	5	.375	1 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East

Florida	4	3	.571	—
Philadelphia	4	4	.500	1/2
Atlanta	3	5	.375	1 1/2
Washington	3	5	.375	1 1/2
New York	2	4	.333	1 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	6	1	.857	—
St. Louis	6	2	.750	1/2
Chicago	4	3	.571	2
Cincinnati	4	4	.500	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	3	4	.429	3
Houston	3	6	.333	4

West Division

Arizona	6	2	.750	—
San Diego	5	4	.556	1 1/2
Los Angeles	4	4	.500	2
Colorado	3	5	.375	3
San Francisco	2	6	.250	4

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia	5, N.Y. Mets	2
Milwaukee	3, Cincinnati	2, 10 innigs
St. Louis	5, Houston	3
Colorado	4, Atlanta	3
Arizona	10, L.A. Dodgers	5
San Francisco	3, San Diego	2, 11 innigs
Boston	5, Detroit	0
Baltimore	8, Texas	1
Kansas City	5, N.Y. Yankees	2
Oakland	9, Toronto	8
Seattle	6, Tampa Bay	5
Cleveland	4, L.A. Angels	3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings Majors

Junior netters lead PIC-Gatorade tennis winners

By JON PEREZ
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 REPORTER
 Photos by SERGEI BARGAMOTOV



The future of CNMI tennis led the list of winners in the singles division of the 8th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament held from March 28 to 30 at the PIC

courts in San Antonio.

Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor, who were part of the International Tennis Federation Pacific-Oceania Junior Touring teams that played in Australia and New Zealand, defeated opponents twice or thrice their age to rule the men's and women's open division.

Heo, who is currently playing in two ITF-organized events in Korea, improved his head-to-head match up with veteran tennis instructor Peter Loyola to 5-3 after a 6-3, 6-3 win in the finals, while Minor

did not drop a set in scoring consecutive wins over Jodel Fernandez and Matty Buenaventura.

Christian Miller and Theecel Minor ruled the boys' and girls' 13-and-under divisions, while Chris Cajigan and Emily Jones duplicated the feat in the 9-and-under class.

Miller downed Jones, 5-7, 6-1, 7-5, while Theecel bested eight-year-old Neghar Rastguiy, 6-2, 6-0. Cajigan defeated Colin Ramsey, 6-1, while Emily Jones scored back-to-back wins over Saku-

ra Imaya, 6-3, and Coconut Classic champion Tammy Ackerman, 6-2.

Lope Padilla and Buenaventura ruled the men's and women's 4.0 divisions after beating Nanding Cajigan, 6-2, 7-5, and Lydia Tan, 6-2, 6-1, while Dodong Salinas topped the men's 3.0 after winning by default against Manny Jardinero.

PIC, Pacific Trading Co., Stay Well Insurance, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino are some of the sponsors of the tournament.



Theecel Minor watches the direction of her shot.



Thea Minor makes a two-handed backhand return in round-robin play in the women's open division.



Neghar Rastguiy eyes the ball as she prepares to make a forehand return.



Lydia Tan prepares to smash the ball in her finals match against Matty Buenaventura in the women's singles 4.0 division in the Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament last March 30 at the PIC courts in San Antonio.



Far left, Lope Padilla, left, and Nanding Cajigan pose beside the PIC banner after their men's singles finals match in the 4.0 division. Padilla beat Cajigan, 6-2, 7-5.

Left, Rafael Jones prepares to make a forehand return in his boys' 13-and-under finals match against Christian Miller.



Christian Miller makes a forehand return in his game against Rafael Jones in the boys' 13-and-under finals.



Ji Hoon Heo makes a forehand return.



Peter Loyola is a picture of concentration as he prepares to make a forehand return.



Matty Buenaventura eyes the ball as she prepares to make a backhand return.



Junior netters lead PIC-Gatorade tennis winners

The future of CNMI tennis led the list of winners in the singles division of the 8th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament held from March 28 to 30 at the PIC courts in San Antonio.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Parker leads Lady Vols to another title

That injured left shoulder wasn't enough to stop Candace Parker from hoisting that championship trophy one last time.

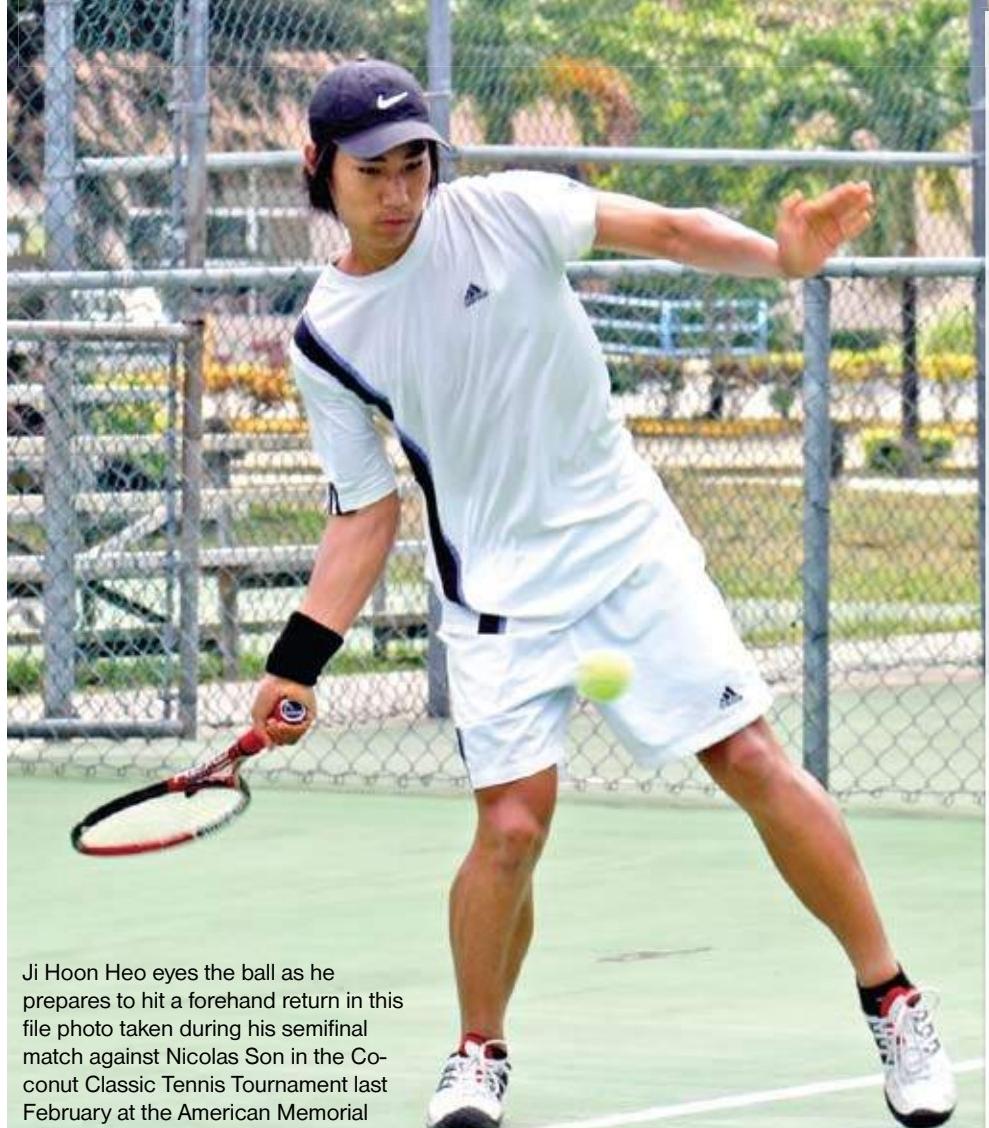


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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008

Heo hopes to do better in next tourney



Ji Hoon Heo eyes the ball as he prepares to hit a forehand return in this file photo taken during his semifinal match against Nicolas Son in the Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament last February at the American Memorial Park courts.

JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo hopes to do better in his next International Tennis Federation-organized tournament as he resumes his bid to earn needed ITF points to barge into the world junior rankings.

Heo is currently in South Korea and has played in the 2008 Jeju International Junior Championships at the Yeonjeong Tennis Courts in Jeju City. He did not do well in the said tournament since he had little time to adjust to the below 15 degree weather at Korea's southernmost island.

Heo left Saipan on April 3, barely four days after beating Peter Loyola in the finals to successfully defend his title in the 8th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament, and played the following day.

He took an Asiana Airlines direct flight to Korea and took a connecting flight to Jeju Island. Heo, who is traveling alone, stayed at a friend's house while in Jeju City.

Heo suffered a 3-6, 3-6 loss to Gil Bo Bae, citing weather and the use of his new racquet as the reasons for his sub-par performance. "The weather is just horrible. I was really freezing, it's just so different from Saipan."

"It was extremely cold I could barely feel my racquet. I played a bit cramped up due to the weather."

Heo, who is now in Seoul staying at his grandmother's house, said there are players that are ranked in the top 200 in the ITF World Junior rankings. He will play in the qualifying round of the Lee Duk Hee Cup Korea International Junior Championships 2008 slated from April 13 to 14 at the Jangchoong Tennis Courts in Jangchoong, Seoul, Korea.

"I hope I get used to the weather for the [Lee Duk Hee tournament] since this tournament doesn't have a pre-



See HEO on Page 26

Ol'Aces share lead with Patriots

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Happy Market-L&Y Corp. Ol'Aces returned to its winning ways on Tuesday dealing the Kagman Little Lions a 12-2 trouncing in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Ol'Aces returned on top of the standings joining defending champion SaipanCell Patriots with similar 6-1 slates. They suffered an 11-8 loss to the Martha's Store Survivors on March 30 snapping their five-game winning run.

Jesse Brel pitched a no-relief game that was shortened by the 10-run mercy rule. He gave up one earned run on seven hits with three strikeouts and two walks.

Catalino Dela Cruz scored the lone earned run against Brel when he scored on a double by Keene Deleon Guerrero, who scored the other run on Ol'Aces shortstop Austin Ngiraidong's error.

Brel had a lot of scoring support from his teammates and pitched on a 10-run lead even though the Little Lions of Reps. Ed Salas and Rosmond Santos threatened at the top of the fourth.

Lions relief pitcher Michael Muna

See OL'ACES on Page 26



Jeremy Lizama of the Happy Market-L&Y Corp. Ol'Aces runs toward home in their game against the Kagman Little Lions in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Tuesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Homers aplenty in DCCA win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Home runs littered the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field on Tuesday night as defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs sailed to a 32-1 win over Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

DCCA blasted 10 home runs in the game with three of the inside-the-park variety, while the rest went over the fence around Tan Ge field.

The win fortified DCCA's chances of advancing further in the playoff round of the men's division of the Inter-government Slow-pitch Softball League and maintained its hold of the title.

Sil Ada, Julian Camacho, Joey Dela Cruz, Mel Sakisat, Craig Sanchez, and Pete Tomokane connected with homers going over the fence, while Elias Rangamar, Mario Sablan, and Ben Tagabuel, blasted inside-the-park round-trippers.

Ada had a two-run home run in DCCA's 14-run second inning scoring spree while Camacho went around the bases twice to go with his 3-for-5 batting, three runs, and six RBIs.

Camacho had a two-run homer in the first, a solo shot and a bases clearing triple both in the second inning.

Dela Cruz hit the cycle going 5-for-5 with a single, two doubles, a triple, and a home run.

Dela Cruz had an RBI triple in the first and a solo shot in the fourth, while Mel Sakisat had a two-run homer in second to go with his double and two runs.

Sanchez went 3-for-5 with a two-run home run in the fifth, while Tomokane had a solo four-bagger in DCCA's nine-run first inning.

Rangamar and Tagabuel whacked solo inside-the-park home runs, while Sablan slapped a two-run inside-the-parker.

Sakisat also pitched three scoreless innings before giving up CUC's lone run at the top of the third. He gave up six hits with one strikeout and no walks.

Public School System also joined DCCA in the next round after a 17-2 thumping of Ports Police.

Pete Mendiola went 2-for-3 scoring two runs with a double, a triple, and three RBIs, two other players combined for 4-for-6 with four runs, a double, a triple, and five RBIs.

Aguagut used an eight-run seventh inning to score a 13-9 come-from-behind win over Commonwealth Health Center, while the Northern Marianas College-Proa escaped with a 9-7 decision against CHC in the women's division.